METRO / A17

Judge stops GMA 7
'Imbestigador' from airing footage of prosecutor's arrest

WORLD / A20

Al-Qaida
threatens more attacks on UK

NEWS / A2

Preview of 2010:
Pranksters play tricks on Villar

ENTERTAINMENT / D3

Pops and
Martin on warpath again

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Thursday, July 12, 2007 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 214 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

New Abu chief Igasan is Tausog, 'very spiritual'

By Arlyn dela Cruz
Contributor

THE NEW "AMIR" OR LEADER OF THE ABU Sayyaf gave way to Khadaffy Janjalani before he assumed the top post of the group, according to a former Abu Sayyaf member.

Sulu Rep. Yusof Jikiri, chief of staff of the Moro National Liberation Front, said the name of the

NEW ABU/ A6

Poverty may push Moro women to acts of terror

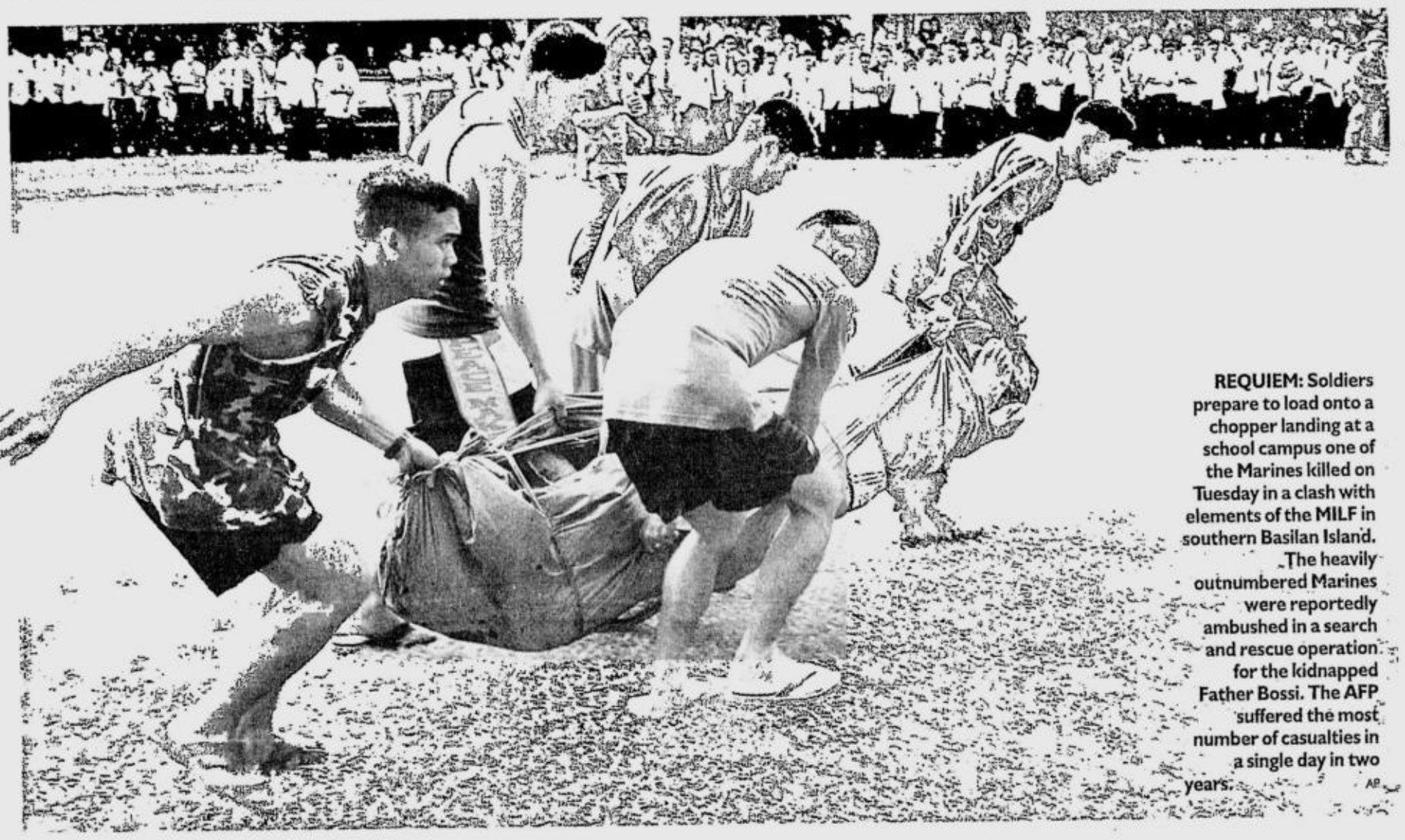
By Nash B. Maulana and Jeoffrey Maitem
Inquirer Mindanao

COTABATO CITY—POVERTY MAY PUSH MORO women to commit crimes considered terrorist acts under the new Human Security Act, according to women leaders attending a forum here.

"A hungry mother or one who's bothered by a hospitalized or unfed child will do anything when

POVERTY/ A6

14 Marines killed; 10 were beheaded



REQUIEM: Soldiers prepare to load onto a chopper landing at a school campus one of the Marines killed on Tuesday in a clash with elements of the MILF in southern Basilan Island. The heavily outnumbered Marines were reportedly ambushed in a search and rescue operation for the kidnapped Father Bossi. The AFP suffered the most number of casualties in a single day in two years. AP

MILF, Abu join forces in Basilan ambush

By Julie Alipala, *Inquirer Mindanao* and Christine O. Avendano *in Manila*

LAMITAN CITY—THEY were returning to base in heavy rains after a fruitless search for kidnapped Italian priest Giancarlo Bossi when their trucks stalled in the mud. Then the firing began.

In a 10-hour gun battle that turned into a carnage, 14 Marines were killed—10 of them beheaded—and nine others wounded in one of the most shocking military debacles in years in the country's southern islands.

"They were surprised when bullets rained on them," Brig. Gen. Ramiro Alivio told the INQUIRER, recounting Tuesday's daylong clash between 50 badly outnumbered Marines and some 400 Abu Sayyaf bandits and Moro Islamic Liberation (MILF) guerrillas in Albarka municipality (formerly Tipo-tipo) on Basilan island.

14 MARINES/ A6

Ka Bel's bill now down to P140,000

By Norman Bordadora

SENATORS HAVE CROSSED PARTY lines to pitch in to help obtain the release of Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran not from police custody but from the government hospital that he owed more than P1 million after 15 months of treatment and detention.

Letters of guarantee from administration and opposition senators

KA BEL'S/ A9

Militants: Outlawing CPP breaks 17 pacts

By Christian V. Esguerra, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and TJ Burgonio

MILITANT GROUPS YESTERDAY warned President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration against outlawing the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army, saying this would permanently scrap peace talks with the communist insurgents.

Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) chair Carol Araullo said proscribing the CPP-NPA would also lead to the escalation of the administration's purported "all-out" policy against the communist movement.

"If the terror law is being used as a mere leverage, it can be assumed the Arroyo administration is not at all serious in conducting peace negotiations and in finding a negotiated solution to the armed insurgency," Araullo said. "The government is only interested in wiping out its enemies through an all-out war."

The Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) said that outlawing the CPP and the NPA would violate 17 agreements forged by the government and the National Democratic Front while seeking solutions to the communist insurgency.

Pamalakaya national chair Fernando Hicap warned Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez they would be held accountable for any violation of the agreements signed during peace talks from 1992 up to 2004.

The agreements "are politically and

MILITANTS/ A8

GMA 7 reporter sees empty houses before all hell breaks loose

By Christine O. Avendaño
Julie S. Alipala, *Inquirer Mindanao*

GMA 7 REPORTER JUN VENERACION had an eerie feeling when the convoy of seven military vehicles, one of which was carrying him and his two television crewmembers, rolled on Tuesday through an area where the houses were empty.

The 36-year-old broadcaster, who had been in the media for 12 years, recalled past conversations with soldiers who had told him that empty houses in a village in volatile places, like Basilan, signaled "trouble" was just around the corner.

His fears came true.

Soon, he and his crew were in the middle of mayhem, a deadly ambush in

EMPTY/ A6

Jonas ma seeks SC help; Velasco sacked

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE MOTHER OF MISSING ACTIVIST Jonas Burgos has asked the Supreme Court to order the military to produce her son, saying that as Commander in Chief, President Macapagal-Arroyo was responsible for his disappearance and should be directed to pinpoint who among her security officials were behind it.

Edita Burgos filed the petition for habeas corpus yesterday, the same day Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez relieved Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco of the task of handling the investigation of Jonas' disappearance, for making public the names of the supposed military suspects without hard evidence.

Burgos also said the police should be directed to search for Jonas with "vigor, diligence, thoroughness and impartiality," and to file the appropriate cases against his abductors.

She pointed out that Ms Arroyo had yet to publicly condemn Jonas' disappearance: "Her manifest reticence is as eloquent as her praise for General [Jovito] Palparan at her State of the Nation

JONAS/ A8

PDI union, management sign new CBA after only 5 meetings

IT WAS, BOTH THE UNION AND MANagement agreed, historic.

At the signing rites of the Philippine Daily Inquirer's new collective bargaining agreement yesterday, PDI senior vice president Rene Reinoso noted the record pace of the negotiations that resulted in an P80-million CBA package.

"For the first time in the INQUIRER history of CBA negotiations, we were able to come to agree in five meetings, the shortest [negotiation] and also the most cordial ever," Reinoso, head of the management panel, said.

His counterpart in the negotiations, PDI Employees Union president Dona Pazzibugan, noted another historic first.

"The negotiation was resolved without us getting outside mediation to re-

PDI UNION/ A7

"WE ARE TRULY ONE FAMILY." Members of the INQUIRER union and management panels join PDI president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez (seated, center) at the signing of the company's new collective bargaining agreement. From left: Christian Esguerra, Marie Fe Reyes, Noel Piano, Ernie Sambo, Grig Montegrande, Norman Bordadora, Michael Ubac, Joel Nigos, union president Dona Pazzibugan-Porcalla, Atty. Cezar Maravilla, Atty. Roberto Parel, Romualdez, Simon Yap, senior vice president Rene Reinoso, Abel Ulanday, Rolly Suarez, John Nery, Shirman Tan, Jesse Rebustillo and Evelyn Escueta. ERIK ARAZAS

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

THURSDAY, JULY 12, 2007

EZ2 26 24 | FOUR DIGIT 0 8 8 2

Mid-Day SUERTRES Evening: 8 7 2 | 5 3 4 (All in exact order)

MEGALOTTO 6/45 8 21 28 29 33 43

P5,570,058.60

Second FrontPage

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph Website: www.inquirer.net/nation

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Southern Luzon and Visayas which may trigger flashfloods and landslides.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY: SCHATZI QUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/07/11/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

Palace panicking over revenue shortfalls, says Roxas

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE ARROYO ADMINISTRATION is panicking over an imminent breakdown of its fiscal program after it failed to sustain higher revenue collections despite raising taxes two years ago, Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas II said yesterday.

Roxas said the economic managers of President Macapagal-Arroyo have resorted to "short-term, knee-jerk solutions" such as selling the state's crown jewels and jacking up government fees to make up for their shortcomings.

"Sell these assets as part of a bigger investment program, not as short-sighted solutions to our fiscal shortfalls," he said.

Among those lined up in the auction block are the government's shares in San Miguel Corp., Manila Electric Co. and Philippine National Oil Co.-Exploration Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC).

"I am alarmed that revenue shortfalls are now driving fiscal policy rather than the other way around leading to potentially bigger burdens on the people. The mad scramble to keep our fiscal numbers up may jeopardize long-term investments and lead to knee-jerk solutions that are short-sighted and inefficient," said Roxas in a statement.

He said that the people should not be made to pay more in government fees due to shortfalls in fees and tax collections.

Instead of raising fees or selling off state assets, Roxas said the DOF should focus on longer term solutions such as lateral attrition and putting big time evaders in jail.

"This government must come out with a clear-cut plan on how it intends to sustain its fiscal program," said Roxas.

Roxas was particularly concerned over the plan of the Department of Finance to increase government fees after it only collected P7.98 billion in the first five months this year or less than half of the P19.975 billion target for the first half.

"To meet this target, the government agencies will need to have collected P11.995 billion in June alone or much larger than the collection for the first five months," said Roxas.

Based on a study by the National Tax Research Center, Roxas said the government has been collecting much less from its fees for processing driver's licenses, passports, and police clearances, even after it raised them by 20 percent seven years ago.

PREVIEW OF 2010

Pranksters play tricks on Villar

By Juliet Javellana

THE NEXT PRESIDENTIAL elections will be in 2010. But this early, political pranksters are already testing if their tricks will work.

Their first victim was Senate President Manuel Villar, who is believed to be one of those eyeing the highest post in the land.

In what could be a preview of things to come in the 2010 elections, a box of coffee mugs supposedly from Villar was delivered to the Malacañang press office yesterday.

Inscribed on the black coffee mugs were the words "I'll have coffee with you in Malacañang Manny Villar 2010" in orange, Villar's campaign color. Each mug came with a gift tag, with the words "MV in 2010" and the name of 14 of 57 members of the Malacañang Press Corps.

But Avic Amarillo, Villar's media officer, denied that the mugs came from them.

"We vehemently deny having sent such inappropriate gifts carrying a grossly malicious message aimed at destroying Senate President Manny Villar," she said in a statement.

"It is nothing but a cheap stunt purposely carried out to signify the presence of the Senate President's enemies and their readiness to commit iniquity in the name of politics," the statement added.

The box of coffee mugs was delivered at past 4 p.m. to the Press Working Area in Malacañang's New Executive Building where the newspaper, television and radio reporters covering the Palace work on their stories.

A certain "Edwin Manahan" of 21 Shorthorn, Proj. 8, Quezon City supposedly sent the box. It was addressed to Paolo Romero, reporter of the Philippine Star who is also MPC president, and dzBB reporter Aileen Intia. Fourteen mugs wrapped individually in bubble wrap were inside the box delivered by an LBC courier. The reporters who got the mugs were Milky Rigonan of dzRH, Rey Mercaral of RMN, Intia, Romero, Jove Francisco of ABC-5, Ralph Guzman of GMA 7, RG Cruz of ABS-CBN, Mia Gonzales of Business Mirror, Rose Miranda of Abante, Sherwin Olaes of Daily Tribune, Ruby Tayag of dzMM, Tess Bedico of People's Journal, Gina Bengco of Malaya and this reporter.

Romero said he did not know the sender and said it could be a political prank.

Gonzales, MPC vice president, said the coffee mug thing shows that politicians are already pulling each other down way into the 2010 elections.

Koko gears up for final stand

By Kristine L. Alave

GENUINE OPPOSITION candidate Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III is gearing up for what would be his last chance to clinch the 12th senatorial slot when the Supreme Court hears his petition to exclude allegedly fraudulent election returns from Maguindanao.

Pimentel said his victory hinges on a favorable decision by the high tribunal on Friday and is optimistic the court would be on his side.

But he pointed out that Friday's showdown at the Supreme Court was not only a day of reckoning for him.

It would also be the Commission on Elections' "last chance" to prove it was not bent on thwarting his efforts to prove that the Maguindanao votes, where his closest rival Juan Miguel "Migz" Zubiri led, were manipulated.

"The oral argument at the Supreme Court is my last chance to reopen the canvass proceedings of the Comelec," Pimentel told reporters at a forum in Club Filipino yesterday.

"It is also the Comelec's last chance to prove that it can act as an impartial referee," he added.

He said the Comelec should schedule the proclamation for the 12th senator after his electoral protest has been resolved.

The Comelec was set to proclaim Zubiri as the 12th senator on Wednesday. But the scheduled proclamation was deferred after the high tribunal issued a notice of oral arguments to all parties involved on Friday.

Pimentel said the Comelec's decision to proclaim Zubiri was an indication that it was biased for the administration candidate.

But he said he was pleased at the deferment of Zubiri's proclamation, thanks to the Supreme Court's notice, which "forced the Comelec's hand."

He accused the poll body, from the local to the national level, of attempting to "railroad" his objections, which form the meat of his arguments before the Supreme Court.

Pimentel said he filed a petition to exclude the votes from 22 Maguindanao certificates of canvass since his constitutional right was violated during the canvassing.

On Friday, Pimentel's lawyer Leila de Lima would tell the court how officials from the provincial level refused to hear her objections against dubious election documents, the opposition candidate said.

Provincial officials also told his lawyer that she would be forcibly taken out of the building if she persisted in her objections.

"Is that permitted? Even if the canvassing is done hastily, questions should be entertained...This petition to be heard this Friday is about defending my constitutional right," Pimentel said.

Mikey eyed for House committee on energy

By Abigail L. Ho

POWER SECTOR CONSUMER GROUPS HAVE expressed alarm over reports that the President's son and Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, a member of the ruling Lakas-CMD party, may be named chair of the House committee on energy.

According to industry sources, Mikey has already made the rounds of various energy-related government agencies, meeting with officials and orienting himself with the ins and outs of the industry.

Gani Tapang, convenor of militant consumer group People Opposed to Warrantless Electricity Rates (POWER), expressed apprehension at the prospect of having the president's son chair of such a crucial House committee, which is tasked with checking the misdeeds of President Arroyo's appointees.

"For weeks now, we have received reports from very reliable industry insiders warning us that Mikey is eyeing the energy committee. This is allegedly a concession to the young Arroyo for his support for Rep. Jose de Venecia's speakership bid," he said.

"If such reports are true, we find it very disturbing and unsettling. We don't know how Mikey's presence in the energy committee will result in lower power rates or how his chairmanship will lead to power reforms," he added.

Bagong Alyansang Makábayan (Bayan) secretary general Renato Reyes Jr. said it was important that the energy committee should not be a rubber stamp of Malacañang's privatization and deregulation drive.

"If Rep. Arroyo is made chairman, how will the House exercise its oversight role in checking abuses in the power sector committed by the Arroyo administration?" he added.

Reyes said it would be next to impossible for misdeeds in the energy sector to be identified and punished if Mikey was at the helm of the House energy committee.

Tapang said the House committee on energy should not be taken lightly because its chair would have to deal with controversial issues such as the the ongoing privatization of the National Power Corp. and National Transmission Corp., the continuing escalation of power rates, and allegations of misdeeds at the wholesale electricity spot market.

"The committee will be confronting real issues, especially high power rates. It should not be held hostage by political maneuverings," he said.

Seized firms' execs won't quit

By Michael Lim Ubac

MALACAÑANG IS STILL AWAITING THE RESignations of government-appointed nominees of some 36 sequestered companies, as well as that of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), which oversees the companies suspected of being part of the hidden wealth of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

So far, executives of only four government-sequestered companies have tendered their resignations as directed by President Macapagal-Arroyo last month.

Inquirer research lists 40 major sequestered companies led by PCGG-appointed managers. More than 200 other firms do not have PCGG-appointed managers.

At a press briefing yesterday, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita admitted that even officials of the (PCGG) led by its chair, Camilo Sabio, had yet to tender their courtesy resignations.

Ermita said he was told that the PCGG officers were still awaiting the resignations of most of their appointees in the sequestered companies.

Ermita identified the four sequestered companies who had already complied with the President's directive as the Bataan Shipyard and Engineering Corp., United Coconut Planters Bank-CIIF Oil Mills and television networks NBN and RPN 9.

The PCGG aside, Ermita revealed that 301 officials from 107 government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) had resigned.

Ms Arroyo last month required all presidential appointees in government-owned corporations and financial institutions, including line and attached agencies, to resign to give her a free hand in reorganizing her administration.

So many bills filed, so little money to fund them

By Christian V. Esguerra

LAWMAKERS HAVE BEGUN LINing up proposed pieces of legislation, some of them in line with their campaign promises, in time for the opening of the 14th Congress on July 23.

But will there be available funds to implement all these proposals?

Palawan Rep. Abraham Mitra yesterday cautioned his colleagues against filing bills without appropriate fund sources, noting that there are already P512 billion worth of unfunded laws.

Included in his list were 83 three-year-old laws needing P310 billion to implement.

"It is easy to file a bill calling for the cementing of all barangay roads, but that would cost at least P700 billion, which is about all that the (Bureau of Internal Revenue) can collect in a year," the lawmaker said in a statement.

"Rhetoric is cheap, but every campaign promise has a fiscal cost to it."

Mitra said that if all the campaign promises or proposed projects of the 30 senatorial candidates in the last May elections were implemented, it would take a whopping P1 trillion to implement.

"None (of them) was brave enough to tell the public how they would fund each (of the projects)," he said.

"A senator can file a bill calling for a P4,000 increase in the monthly pay of all state workers, but what is probably not written in the bill is how to raise P72 billion a year to fund it."

Two laws extending benefits to Filipino veterans—Republic Acts 6948 and 7898—have yet to be fully implemented because of lack of funds, according to the congressman.

To counter the proliferation of bills that ignore the equal importance of fund sourcing, Mitra submitted a proposed legislation of his own, the Fiscal Responsibility Bill. It will require the "identification of revenue sources or an increase in the revenue effort which would be used in funding a measure that requires appropriation."

"We must adopt the 'pay-go' concept in which proposed programs are matched with clear funding sources," he said.

Another early bill filed was that of Manila Rep. Jaime Lopez, "An Act penalizing parents, adopters, guardians, or persons exercising special or substitute parental authority over children under parental authority found to be engaged in begging and/or prostitution for other purposes."

Population to swell with pill; condom shortage

EFFORTS TO SLOW the country's rapidly-growing birth rate will fail unless the government shrugs off religious pressure and provides funding for condoms and pills, health experts warned yesterday.

The country has one of the fastest-growing populations in Asia with around 2 million babies born every year.

The government has estimated that the number of Filipinos will swell to 142 million by 2040, even if the population growth rate eventually falls to around 1 percent from 2.34 percent at the last census in 2000.

But experts said the growth rate could shoot up if President Macapagal-Arroyo, a devout Catholic, does not release funding for artificial contraception when supplies from US government agency USAID run out.

"This is a very serious concern nationally, as well as regionally," said Benjamin de Leon, president of The Forum for Family Planning & Development (FFPD), at a news conference to highlight World Population Day.

No supplies

"If there are no contraception supplies in the market I believe there will be more abortions." Successive governments have shied away from widely supplying contraceptives or teaching birth control in schools for fear of triggering the wrath of the country's Catholic bishops, who can make or break an administration.

Ms Arroyo, a mother of three, has consistently emphasized natural family planning over artificial methods since coming to power in 2001 and government booklets on responsible parenting make no mention of condoms, pills or intra-uterine devices.

While the rich are able to avail themselves of artificial birth control in private clinics, the poor have been reliant on USAID, which has been the biggest supplier of contraceptives in the Philippines for the past 30 years.

But USAID has started phasing out supplies and plans to end the rest of its contraceptive donation program by the end of next year. The agency has said previously the phase-out was in line with Manila's goal of self-reliance in family planning. Reuters

THE NEW CHRYSLER 300C 3.5

CHRYSLER

LOOKS MORE INTIMIDATING...
THE ONLY THING NOT INTIMIDATING IS THE PRICE!

For as low as Php 78,000* downpayment only OR as low as Php 24,254 monthly**

Robust 250 Hp for the 3.5-liter > 5-Speed AutoStick® > HID headlamps > Boston Acoustics® Audio System with Sub-Woofer and 6 CD Changer with MP3 Compatibility > Power Sunroof > Premium Leather Trim Seats Multi-function Steering Wheel > Vehicle Information Center > 18" aluminum wheels > ESP with Brake Assist ParkSense® Assist System > Sentry Key® antitheft engine immobiliser > Tire Pressure Monitoring > Supplemental Side Air-Bags

Experience the complete line of the Chrysler 300C sedan including the 2.7-liter, 5.7-liter HEMI and 6.1-liter SRT8 only at your authorized Chrysler dealer. WWW.CHRYSLER.COM.PH

3 YEAR WARRANTY

* Applicable to Chrysler 300C 3.5-liter
** Applicable only to Chrysler 300C 3.5-liter with 50% downpayment, 5 years to pay
Other special financing packages available
Available through AIG Philam Savings Bank, BPI Family Savings Bank and Sterling Bank of Asia from June 14 to July 31, 2007 only.

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT # 2267 SERIES OF 2007

CHRYSLER MAKATI 2287 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City, Metro Manila TEL: (632) 815 2222 / MOBILE: (0917) 800 2862
CHRYSLER GREENHILLS 1008 EDSA Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila TEL: (632) 723 5808 / MOBILE: (0917) 800 2794
EMAIL: chryslergroup@cats.com.ph

Lose 10 lbs. in 5 weeks!

PHYSIQUE INCH-LOSS FAT MOBILIZATION SYSTEM VARA PULSE FAT REDUCER

Losing weight has never been this easy. Like Dawn, you can lose as much as 10 lbs. in as short as 5 weeks! Try Dawn's **Weight-Loss Accelerator Program** at Marie France and lose all those unwanted pounds, inches, flabs and fats in your body. Lose weight with no exercise, no crazy diets, no pills and no surgery! As Dawn said, "Just do what I did – regular treatments at Marie France!" Soon, you'll get that slim, sexy figure you deserve – and make heads turn!

FREE Weight-Loss Starter Program
upon enrollment from July 9-14, 2007 only!
Per DTI-NCR Permit # 3056, Series of 2007

Call 894-BODY (2639)

marie france

MAKATI ORTIGAS TOMAS MORATO BINONDO ALABANG SHAW CONGRESSIONAL PAMPANGA • TEL: 961-2981 CEBU • TEL: 233-7637

Corrections

IN THE JULY 8 ISSUE, the Sunday Inquirer Magazine's cover story—"Turning Japanese: When Pinoy Otakus Attack!"—misstated the name of a cultural organization at the University of Santo Tomas. The organization is TomasinOtaku—not Tomasino Otaku.

* * *

IN THE JULY 11 ISSUE, a photo caption on the front page misstated the place where Indonesian priest Fransiskus Madhu had worked and where he was killed in April. The missionary was murdered in Lubuagan, Kalinga—not Tuguegarao City.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Lorna Kalaw Tirol, readers' advocate, e-mail address: readersadvocate@inquirer.com. ph or fax Nos. 897-47-93/94, Attn: Readers Advocate. Her phone number is 897-8808 Local 342.

JDV son's firm says it uses no gov't loans, guarantees

THE COMPANY OF THE SON OF Speaker Jose de Venecia yesterday said its proposed broadband project for the national government is "strictly a private-sector initiative" and does not involve any loan or guarantee from the Philippine government.

Amsterdam Holdings, Inc. (AHI) "was careful from the beginning not to ask for a Philippine government contract, government loan, government bank guarantee, or government equity," said its spokesperson Marinelle O'Santos.

O'Santos was reacting to the the statement of Rep. Jose Solis of Sorsogon, who suggested that Jose de Venecia III was using his father's influence to clinch the $330-million broadband connection deal won by the Chinese firm ZTE.

O'Santos also denounced what she called a politically-laced propaganda blitz launched by Solis to dismiss AHI as a "mom's-and-pop's enterprise," stressing that AHI has the financial muscle to undertake a project the magnitude of its proposed broadband project.

AHI said it has a paid-in capital of P11.7 million and the backing of Hua Wei, a "a strong foreign technical and financing partner" described as the second largest telecom manufacturer in the world and the largest in China.

She called Solis's allegation that AHI had a paid-up capital of only P659,000 a malicious lie and a political smear job on Speaker Jose de Venecia.

"Speaker De Venecia has nothing to do with AHI," O'Santos said. "His son is an AHI stockholder, one of the broadband pioneers in the Philippines and Southeast Asia, and a frequent speaker in major telecommunication conferences in the United States and Asia.

O'Santos defended the young De Venecia as an entrepreneur who pioneered broadband technology in the Philippines and in Southeast Asia.

"He (Jose de Venecia III) has a vision for the convergence of multi-media technologies that created the first broadband service provider focused solely on Philippine business," O'Santos said.

She stressed that the young De Venecia has the professional background and company resources to become a competitive player in the rapidly expanding broadband market.

The ZTE contract referred to by Solis will need a Philippine government loan of $330-million, she said. "Nonetheless, if the government wants ZTE, so be it. We will just pursue other projects," she said.

The AHI spokesperson assailed "the cavalier way political opponents of Speaker De Venecia are using the AHI proposal to launch a smear campaign against the Speaker. She said Solis is a rabid front-liner in Rep. Pablo Garcia's flagging challenge to wrest from De Venecia the speakership of the House of Representatives in the 14th Congress.

"It is unfortunate that Representative Solis, a lieutenant of Representative Garcia, is using black propaganda to attack Speaker De Venecia through his son and AHI," she said.

She said AHI welcomes a congressional investigation, not oppose it, as alleged by Solis, "so the truth will come out."

Garcia asks De Venecia to withdraw

By Norman Bordadora

CEBU REP. PABLO GARCIA YESTERday asked Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. to withdraw from the speakership race "for lack of moral ascendancy" over possible violations of Republic Act No. 3019, or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

Garcia said that De Venecia may be held liable under RA 3019 over alleged efforts by his son, Jose de Venecia III, to wrest the government's multimillion dollar national broadband project already awarded to Chinese firm ZTE.

"The charge is so serious that the prudent thing for Speaker De Venecia to do may be to forego his speakership bid at the moment. This way, De Venecia can focus on dispelling public perception that his son has been using his (the Speaker's) influence to gain an edge in bagging the broadband project," Garcia said.

"He also has to consider *delicadeza* over the impropriety of his son's actions," Garcia said.

The young De Venecia's company, Amsterdam Holdings Inc., has denied that it was using the Speaker's influence in trying to secure the government's $330-million contract with ZTE.

"If the government wants a contract with ZTE, so be it," said AHI lawyer Marinelle O'Santos in a statement.

O'Santos said AHI only wanted to give the government a better deal.

Garcia said De Venecia III has been very vocal in criticizing the national broadband deal forged by the government with ZTE and in pushing the broadband proposal of a company he co-founded, AHI.

Garcia said De Venecia, as a four-term Speaker, should have applied moral suasion on his son "not to dip his fingers on government contracts" during his incumbency at the House of Representatives.

"The son carries the name of the father, and the name alone is enough for lesser government functionaries to cringe when faced with a proposal for a government contract coming from this son," Garcia said.

"At the very least, the scandalous situation of Jose de Venecia III going around seeking a government contract and attacking a deal already awarded by the government is immoral. We must have a Speaker without a troubling issue hanging over his head," he added.

Int'l electronics giants cited for going 'green'

By TJ Burgonio

MORE GLOBAL ELECTRONICS companies are slowly shifting to "green products" even as they ponder the new design of their mobile phones, laptops and other high-tech gadgets.

Twelve of 14 electronic giants have shown marked improvements in their global environmental policies and practices in the manufacture and disposal of their products, environmentalist group Greenpeace said yesterday.

In its latest global ranking of the firms in terms of their efforts at eliminating harmful chemicals and taking responsibility for their products once discarded by consumers, Greenpeace said that 12 of the 14 mobile phone and computer companies scored 5 or above out of 10 points.

This showed an "industry-wide improvement in environmental policies," it said.

"The general direction of the industry is to start greening their products," said Greenpeace toxics campaigner Beau Baconguis during a PowerPoint presentation of their latest ranking, dubbed "Guide to Greener Electronics."

For eliminating the worst chemicals from many of its products, cell phone maker Nokia topped the rankings with eight points.

Tied for second place with 7.3 points were computer makers Dell and Lenovo. Closely behind them were Sony Ericsson (7 points); Samsung (6.7 points); and Motorola (6.7 points).

The others were Toshiba and Fujitsu-Siemens (both 6 points); Acer (5.7 points); Apple and HP (both 5.3 points); and Panasonic (5 points).

Those in the bottom of the rankings were LGE (4.3 points); and Sony (4 points).

Mining firm sues for libel

THE MINING FIRM LAFAYETTE PHILIPpines yesterday said it had filed a libel case against an antimining group and its key officers, saying "their brand of irresponsible and unprincipled advocacy employed a systematic pattern of lies and hate-mongering to pressure the government to close down the company."

"We are taking this unprecedented defensive measure to protect the company and the thousands of people we employ directly and indirectly, and to force these antimining groups to be a positive force through a moral, honest, and responsible advocacy," said Carlos G. Dominguez, chair and president of Lafayette, in a press statement.

Included in the complaint filed before the Pasig City prosecutor's office were the trustees of the Center for Environmental Concerns Inc., who, Lafayette said, insisted for almost two years on allegations that had long been proven as a hoax and unscientific.

The company said it is seeking P10 million in damages, which it plans to use as a scholarship fund for deserving Rapu Rapu students to secure advanced degrees in environmental management and protection.

Albano named usec

PRESIDENT GLORIA Macapagal-Arroyo has appointed the deputy spokesperson of administration Team Unity as executive director of the Office of the Political Coalition Affairs.

Antonio "Tonypet" Albano's new post has the rank of undersecretary, according to the list of new appointments released by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

Ricardo Dapat, meanwhile, will replace Vicente Vinarao as director of the Bureau of Corrections.

Manuel Bonoan has been appointed senior undersecretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways, while Nestor Camacho is now the presidential assistant for Region XII.

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE LEVEL OF MARKET TRANSACTION FEES FOR YEAR 2007 FOR THE PHILIPPINE WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY SPOT MARKET

ERC CASE NO. 2007-124 RC

THE PHILIPPINE ELECTRICITY MARKET CORPORATION (PEMC),
Applicant.

x----------x

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that on June 7, 2007, the Philippine Electricity Market Corporation (PEMC) filed with the Commission, pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act No. 9136, an application for the approval of the level of Market Transaction Fees for year 2007 for the Philippine Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM).

In the said application, PEMC alleged, among others, that:

1. The instant application is being filed to secure the approval of a new level of Market Transaction Fees for the year 2007 to be imposed on all transactions in the WESM, pursuant to Section 30 of Republic Act No. 9136, which reads:

   "The cost of administering and operating the wholesale electricity spot market shall be recovered by the market operator through a charge imposed to all market members; Provided, That such charge shall be filed with and approved by the ERC."

2. The aforesaid provision is pursuant to Clause 2.10 of the WESM Rules, which requires the Market Operator to develop the level of the charges, i.e. market fees, which will be approved by the PEMC Board of Directors before filing with this Commission for approval;
3. As provided in the WESM Rules, the PEM Board, during its meeting held on 27 April 2007, approved the level of the Market Transaction Fees for the WESM for the year 2007;
4. It is filing the instant application seeking only the approval of the new market transaction fee level in view of the increase in budgetary requirements. It wishes to clarify that it is still adopting the approved market registration fees and the market fee structure, including the formula for the allocation to the generators for the recovery of the market transaction fee level. However, should the Commission approve PEMC's application for the Approval of the Pricing and Cost Recovery Mechanism for Reserves in the Philippine Wholesale Electricity Spot Market, the computation for apportioning the market transaction fees would consequently be changed to the following formula:

   $$\text{Rate} = \frac{\text{Total Annual Market Transaction Fees (Php)}/12}{\text{Total Generation (Energy) Metered Quantity + Total Reserve Scheduled for the Month (kWh)}}$$

5. The proposed level of Market Transaction Fees for the year 2007 is the total budgeted revenue requirements to defray its operating and capital expenditures;
6. This has been determined to be in the amount of Six Hundred Twenty Four Million, Four Hundred Eleven Thousand Pesos (PhP624,411,000.00);
7. The said amount is net of applicable taxes such as corporate income and value added taxes. It also does not cover possible charges in expenses due to changes in law, rules or regulations, compliance with regulatory requirements, adjustments for inflation, and other external factors;
8. It will cover several cost components, namely: (a) Personnel Services, which refers to salaries and benefits for its 122 employees; (b) Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE), which includes, among others, Honoraria and Allowances for PEMC Committees, Training Expenses, Repairs and Maintenance Costs, Expenses for the EC-WESM Support Office and the Consumer Education Fund; (c) Loan Payments to the National Transmission Company (TRANSCO); (e) Capital Expenditures, particularly the first phase of the Information System – Information Technology ("IS/IT") Three Year Plan; and, (f) Provision for Monitoring Facilities;
9. Based on initial indicative figures, the market fee rate will result in an imposition of PhP0.015509/kWh for Luzon (Energy only);
10. Taking into consideration various aspects (such as preparation of market fees application for the succeeding years and customary regulatory interval for approval), it prays that the approved market transaction level be deemed to be extended to the succeeding years until the approval of the subsequent structure and level of market fees; and
11. It further prays of the Commission to approve the level of Market Transaction Fees for the year 2007 for the Philippine Wholesale Electricity Spot Market.

The Commission has set the application for hearing at the **ERC Hearing Room, 15th Floor, Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City** on the following schedules:

Date and Time	Particulars
August 7, 2007 – Two o'clock in the afternoon (2:00 P.M.)	Jurisdictional, Expository and Pre-trial Hearing
August 15 and 22, 2007 – Two o'clock in the afternoon (2:00 P.M.)	Evidentiary Hearing
August 23, 2007 – Nine o'clock in the morning (9:00 A.M.)	Evidentiary Hearing
August 29, 2007 – Two o'clock in the afternoon (2:00 P.M.)	Evidentiary Hearing

All persons who have an interest in the subject matter of the proceeding may become a party by filing, at least five (5) days prior to the initial hearing and subject to the requirements in the ERC's Rules of Practice and Procedure, a verified petition with the Commission giving the docket number and title of the proceeding and stating: (1) the petitioner's name and address; (2) the nature of petitioner's interest in the subject matter of the proceeding, and the way and manner in which such interest is affected by the issues involved in the proceeding; and (3) a statement of the relief desired.

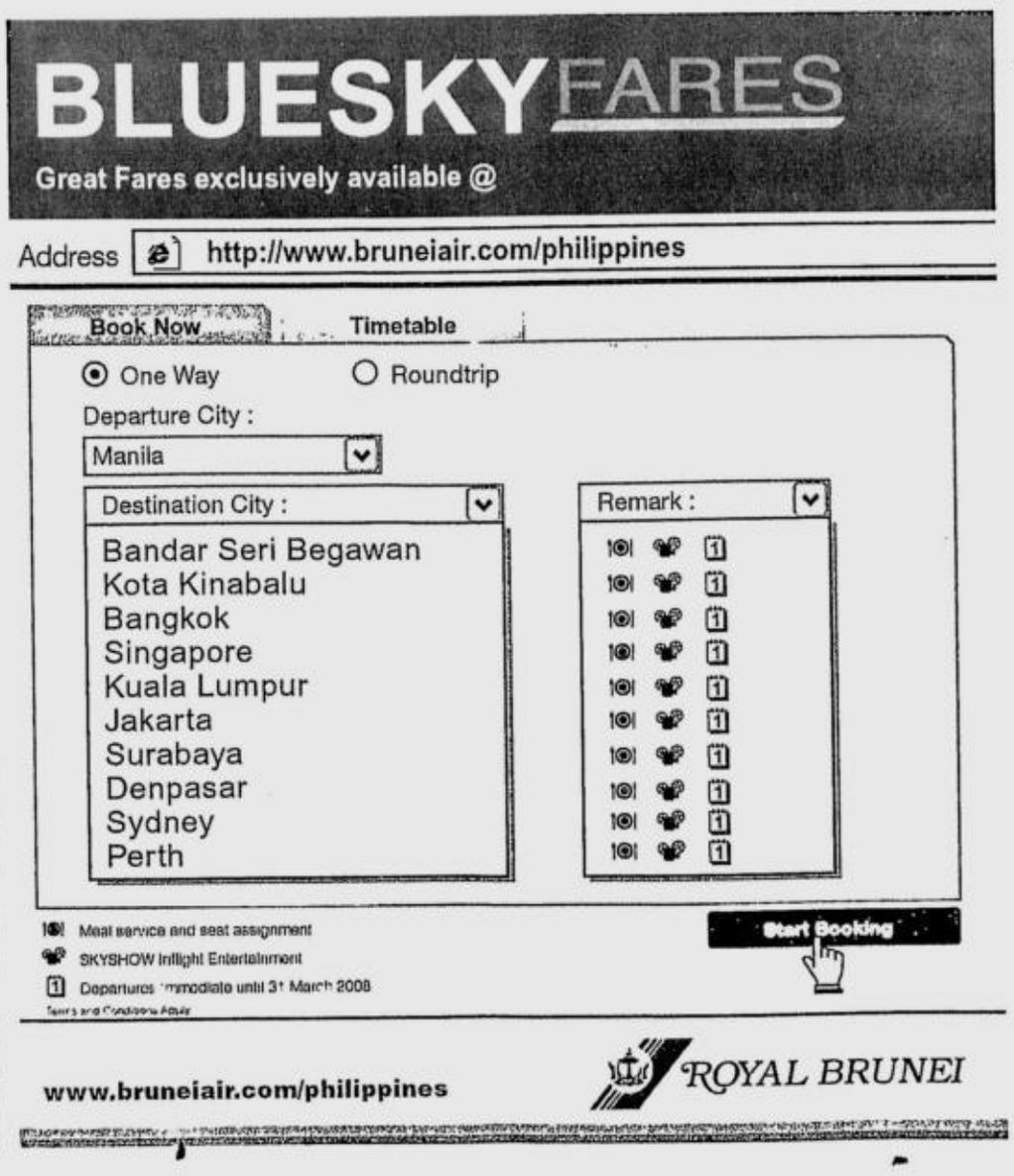
All other persons who may want their views known to the Commission with respect to the subject matter of the proceeding may file their opposition to the application or comment thereon at any stage of the proceeding before the applicant concludes the presentation of its evidence. No particular form of opposition or comment is required, but the document, letter or writing should contain the name and address of such person and a concise statement of the opposition or comment and the grounds relied upon.

All such persons who may wish to have a copy of the application may request the applicant, prior to the date of the initial hearing, that they be furnished with a copy of the application. The applicant is hereby directed to furnish all those making such request with copies of the application and its attachments, subject to reimbursement of reasonable photocopying costs. Likewise, any such person may examine the application and other pertinent records filed with the Commission during the usual office hours.

WITNESS, the Honorable **RODOLFO B. ALBANO, JR.,** Chairman, the Honorable Commissioners, **RAUF A. TAN, ALEJANDRO Z. BARIN** and **MARIA TERESA A.R. CASTAÑEDA,** Energy Regulatory Commission, this 27th day of June 2007 at Pasig City.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. FRANCIS SATURNINO C. JUAN**
Executive Director

(PDI – July 12 & 19, 2007)



GOING FOR A RIDE
Vice President Noli de Castro and Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim sit next to each other onboard a Philippine National Railways train on an inspection trip through areas affected by the relocation of families displaced by the rehabilitation of PNR lines in Manila. De Castro, who is also chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), and Lim answered questions regarding the relocation of families and the rehabilitation of PNR. Also in the consultation were PNR general manager Joey Sarasola and National Housing Authority general manager Federico Laxa. REM ZAMORA

Storm becomes typhoon, heads north to Taiwan

PACKING WINDS OF 140 KPH WITH GUSTIness up to 170 kph, Typhoon "Bebeng" (international name "Man-yi") entered the Philippine area of responsibility before dawn yesterday, bringing rains to the western section of the country.

The second typhoon to hit the country is expected to cause downpours in Palawan, Mindoro and Panay island in western Visayas and Batangas in southern Luzon for the next couple of days, the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said.

The cyclone, which developed from a tropical storm, was moving at a speed of 24 kph, veering northwest along the eastern section of the country towards Taiwan.

It is not expected to hit land, so Pagasa has not issued any warning signals, said its senior weather specialist Robert Sawi.

However, the typhoon will induce the southwest monsoon and bring heavy rains to Visayas and Mindanao.

"Our advise to fishermen in affected areas is not to set out to sea," Sawi said in a interview with INQUIRER.

Pagasa also advised residents living in low-lying areas and on mountain slopes "to seek safer grounds" because of possible flash floods and landslides.

Pagasa forecast the typhoon to be 900 km east northeast of Aparri, Cagayan, or 840 km east of Basco, Batanes this morning, and 780 km of Basco or 100 km of southeast of Okinawa, Japan tomorrow morning.

By the time it exits the country's area of responsibility Friday, heavy rains are also expected over Metro Manila, central and the rest of southern Luzon, according to Sawi.

"These are the rains that we've been bracing for. What we're experiencing today are downpours," he said.

From a severe tropical storm, Bebeng intensified into a typhoon with maximum winds of 120 kph before it entered the country. It further intensified to 140 kph hours later, according to Pagasa.

The first typhoon to hit the country was "Amang" in May. At least 13 cyclones are forecast to hit the country between now and September. *TJ Burgonio*

INTRODUCING

6K txt2fly

NOW BOOKING A FLIGHT IS JUST A TXT AWAY!
Experience a most convenient way to book a flight to BORACAY or to any of Asian Spirit's Domestic and International destinations anytime,anywhere in the Philippines! Simply use 6K TXT 2 FLY and key in the following keywords on your cellphone and send to:

SMART 0928 - 9599309
GLOBE 0917 - 3725272
SUN 0922 - 5059515

DESCRIPTION	KEYWORDS
• To know Asian Spirit destinations	<6kdestination>
• To download flight schedule and fares	6KFLIGHTS <origin> <destination>
• To book one way flight	6KBOOKOW <OrigFlight #> <Last Name> <First Name> <Title> <Departure Date>
• To book roundtrip flight	6KBOOKRT <Origin Flight #> <Return Flight #> <Last Name> <First Name> <Title> <Origin flight date> <Return flight date>
• To know Asian Spirit Office address & telephone numbers	6KTKTOFC <Location>

To download all keywords, text: 6KHELP

Note: 1. Keywords are not case sensitive.
2. The facility is limited to Philippine based cellphone users only.

see fliers for more details

Domestic routes: Boracay · Baguio · Balanes · Busuanga Catarman · Calbayog · Cagayan de Oro · Cebu · Davao Jolo · Manila · Masbate · Pagadian · San Fernando, La Union San Jose · Surigao · Tawi-Tawi · Virac · Zamboanga
International routes:
Palau, Micronesia · Sandakan, Malaysia · Incheon, Korea

powered by. txt

For reservations call: 855-3333

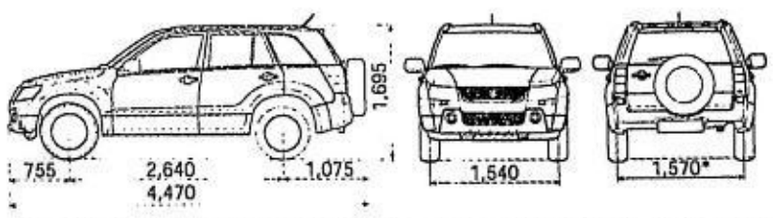
Asian Spirit
www.asianspirit.com

Built for this rough, rugged, wonderful world.

SUZUKI GRAND VITARA

THE GRANDEST SUV, GRAND VITARA!

Built for both on-road and off-road use, Suzuki Grand Vitara packs power as well as prestige, as its 2.0 liter engine is engineered to maximize cost performance with its smooth and quiet response. Its 4-mode 4 x 4 powers all four wheels at all times for outstanding performance on and off-road. Suzuki Grand Vitara is also built for extreme durability and safety with a Built-in Ladder frame that reinforces its compact and rugged body. And, with fully independent suspension, you get smoother, more responsive power over the road or off.



2 FREE SERVICE YEARS 20,000 kms. whichever comes first

3 YEARS WARRANTY 100,000 kms.

SUZUKI Way of Life!

METRO MANILA
SUZUKI AUTO COMMONWEALTH
Prince Motor Corporation
951-2201 to 10

SUZUKI AUTO EDSA
Pilhino Sales Corporation
834-3451 to 57

SUZUKI AUTO KALOOKAN
Matrix Motor Corporation
364-9093 / 365-8098
365-3011 / 365-7796

SUZUKI AUTO MANILA BAY
Wheels, Inc.
556-1485 / 556-1487

SUZUKI AUTO MAKATI
Heidelberg Motor Corporation
616-4097 / 610-1736 / 610-1737

SUZUKI AUTO QUEZON AVE.
Sunny Motors Group, Inc.
374-3911 / 411-2720

SUZUKI AUTO SHAW
The Shaw Motor
Plaza Corp.
718-1634 to 35

PROVINCIAL
SUZUKI AUTO BACOLOD
Automall Motor Sales
(034) 435-0268

SUZUKI AUTO CABANATUAN
Prince Motor Corporation
(044) 463-5248 / 463-0089

SUZUKI AUTO CEBU
Cebu Autocentrale Corp.
(032) 345-8892 / 345-8893

SUZUKI AUTO DAGUPAN
Amianan Motors
(075) 517-1717 / 8888 / 9999

SUZUKI AUTO DAVAO
Motormall Davao Corporation
(082) 233-1140 / 234-0390

SUZUKI AUTO ILOILO
Iloilo Car Corp.
(033) 320-7020 / 508-2777

SUZUKI AUTO LAGUNA
Areza Motor Sales
(02) 520-6725
(049) 411-1079 / 411-1060

SUZUKI AUTO LEGASPI
Lisam Motors
(054) 472-3577 to 79 / 472-3659

SUZUKI AUTO PAMPANGA
Family Cars, Inc.
(045) 860-5971 / 961-3573

SUZUKI AUTO ZAMBOANGA
Arcef Marketing, Inc.
(062) 991-1492 / 991-1126

www.suzuki.com.ph

14 Marines killed in Basilan; 10 were beheaded

From page A1

The commander of the 1st Marine Brigade based in Basilan said several enemy combatants were also killed in the one-sided encounter.

A GMA Network television crew which covered the battle described their experience as hellish. *(See story on this page).*

The network's video footage of the fighting showed the Marines pinned down behind their trucks and coconut trees, looking like they were not sure where the shooting was coming from.

The footage also showed soldiers trying to counterattack with a mortar but it would not fire.

Abu Sayyaf 'signature'

A senior military officer, who did not want to be quoted for lack of authority to speak to the media, said that it was the "signature" of the Abu Sayyaf to behead people.

"Only the Abu Sayyaf is into beheading people," the officer said in a phone interview.

Branded as a terrorist organization by foreign governments, the Abu Sayyaf has gained international notoriety for decapitating hostages, including American tourist Guillermo Sobero, who was beheaded in 2001.

The officer said Tuesday's ambush was likely a retaliation by the bandits for the death of two of their commanders in an encounter on July 5 with soldiers from the same 1st Marine Brigade.

MILF admits involvement

One of the Abu Sayyaf leaders reportedly killed in that incident was the son of Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon, who was shot in the mouth.

Late on Tuesday, the Marines initially reported suffering four dead with 10 others missing—until the headless corpses turned up.

The MILF, with which the Arroyo administration has been engaged in off-and-on peace talks for years, admitted its troops were involved in the fighting in Barangay Ginanta but said they acted in self-defense.

Mohagher Iqbal, MILF chief negotiator, said the military sent troops to Ginanta, a known MILF territory, without proper coordination.

Iqbal said the MILF forces were taken by surprise upon seeing the soldiers and opened fire.

Search for Bossi

Four MILF guerrillas were killed while seven others were wounded in the battle, he said.

Iqbal also admitted that MILF rebels scouring the area after the firefight recovered 11 headless bodies—compared to Alivio's figure of 10—and turned these over to the authorities.

Iqbal could not explain why the soldiers were beheaded.

"I received the report that our troops beheaded seven Marines," Iqbal said. "We are investigating and determining the identities of those involved. We have an existing policy not to harm any captured enemy."

Alivio said the soldiers were part of a search-and-rescue effort for Fr. Bossi, 57, who was abducted in Payao, Zamboanga Sibugay, on June 10.

There has been no word on the whereabouts of the priest since he was taken by armed men after saying Sunday Mass.

Stuck in the mud

The Basilan fighting would seem to support, at least on surface, earlier reports that Bossi's captors might have already moved him out of Zamboanga Sibugay.

"They must be hiding something there," Alivio said, referring to the intensity of Tuesday's attack on the Marines.

On July 3, his abductors sent out photos of the kidnapped priest, which led the military to suspect he was now being hidden in Basilan.

Alivio said the Marine soldiers, who rode on three military trucks, were on their way back to their headquarters in Campo Uno here after an operation in connection with the Bossi kidnapping when they were ambushed.

"One of the three trucks got stuck in mud. It was then raining hard and that made the movement of the soldiers quite difficult," he said.

'We were outnumbered'

Alivio said the soldiers were moving ahead slowly when they were fired upon by about 400 gunmen, who he said belonged to the MILF and the Abu Sayyaf.

Alivio said the soldiers retaliated and the heavy firefight lasted for about 10 hours.

Alivio said the headless bodies "were (those of) the missing soldiers during the firefight."

"We were outnumbered, that's the reason we suffered heavy casualties," Alivio said.

Tuesday's casualties were the most the military had suffered in a single encounter in recent years. In 2005, 12 soldiers were killed in a clash with the Abu Sayyaf in Patikul, Sulu.

Marine officials in Manila said they still had no information on whether the MILF was responsible for the "treacherous" ambush.

Marines spokesperson Lt. Col. Ariel Caculitan blamed "lawless elements" and the Abu Sayyaf for the ambush.

"Definitely, there will be some actions and investigations as to what really happened Tuesday," Caculitan told reporters.

"If there was participation of some MILF members, then we would have to seek the intervention of the Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities considering that the government and the MILF are currently holding peace talks and we have a ceasefire," he said.

Acts of 'barbarism'

Told that MILF officials were blaming the military for not coordinating with them when they entered the MILF area, Caculitan said while the area might have been MILF, a lapse in coordination was "not a go-signal to consider attacking Marine troops."

He said it was possible that the firefight, which started at 10 a.m., lasted long because "other lawless groups" joined in, "considering blood relations and other connections in the community."

"It was very treacherous ... our vehicles were even torched," Caculitan said.

The Abu Sayyaf also provoked outrage and disgust from Islamic scholars and ordinary Filipinos when they beheaded seven workers in Jolo in April this year. Malacañang branded that incident "an act of barbarism."

In 2000, the same group of bandits beheaded two school teachers as a "birthday gift" to then President Joseph Estrada after the government rejected rebel demands in exchange for the release of hostages they were holding.

In June 2001, the Abu Sayyaf beheaded Sobero as an "Independence Day gift" to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

There have been a number of low points in the history of military efforts to stamp out the Abu Sayyaf as well as the communist rebels.

In May 2000, Abu Sayyaf bandits killed 13 soldiers in Lantawan, Basilan, mutilating some of the corpses.

In August 2000, the military suffered one of the biggest losses in the war against insurgents when New People's Army rebels killed 17 soldiers in fighting in Himamaylan, Negros Occidental.

In November 2001, NPA guerrillas ambushed an Army unit in Compostela Valley, killing 18 soldiers.

In February 2005, Moro National Liberation Front guerrillas killed 13 Marines in an ambush in Patikul, Sulu. *With reports from PDI Research, Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao, and Reuters*

Ermita: Marines after Bossi kidnappers

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY EDuardo Ermita yesterday confirmed that the Marines who had clashed with Moro gunmen in Basilan were searching for kidnapped Italian priest Giancarlo Bossi following intelligence reports that there was "high probability" he was being held in the area.

Ermita said if this was true, then the entry of the Marines in an area of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front was justified because of an existing agreement that the MILF would not allow kidnap groups in its territory.

Ermita said the MILF's own admission that its forces were involved in the attack "is a subject matter that could very well be brought before the attention of the International Monitoring Team" overseeing the government-MILF ceasefire agreement.

Asked if the government would take a tougher action against the MILF, Ermita said: "The fact remains that Marines were killed and decimated. You can be very sure the forces on the ground will take the appropriate action. There's no justification for them to be treated in that manner."

Ermita said President Macapagal-Arroyo "definitely is not happy with that development but ... these are hazards of the trade as far as members of our security forces are concerned," he said.

Ermita also said: "We are talking about it over lunch and we said nobody is saying there are human rights violations when the lives of our men in uniform are snuffed out like that to the point of being beheaded, and yet people point an accusing finger at our members of security forces (for alleged killings of activists)."

GMA 7 reporter sees empty houses before all hell breaks loose

From page A1

which at least 14 Marines were killed by combined forces of the Abu Sayyaf and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). *(Story on this page.)*

"I got a first-hand experience of hell," Veneracion said in a phone interview. "It was like hell."

Veneracion said heavy firing "from all directions" erupted minutes after the convoy had turned back to assist a dump truck, the last vehicle in the convoy, which had gotten stuck in mud.

By that time, he and cameraman Julius Catibog and assistant cameraman Donny Roxas, had already gone down from the 6 X 6 truck carrying them and 20 other Marines.

Time for prayers

He said the first salvo—which lasted about five minutes and included rounds of mortar—was very scary.

"I prayed and prayed for the firing to stop," said Veneracion.

But his prayers were not answered.

Soon, the heavy firing resumed and all they could do was take cover, drop down on their knees and run and then run again in order to escape the flurry of bullets.

"It went on and on so what we did was *dumapa, gumapang, dumapa* (hit the ground, crawl, hit the ground)."

"Actually, *hinihintay na lang namin na tamaan kami* (we were just waiting to get hit)," Veneracion said.

He added that the attackers were so near he could hear their voices.

"We heard them shouting, *Allahu Akbar* (God is great), many times while they kept on shooting and we thought that it was our last," he added.

"*Lahat ng klaseng dasal ginawa na namin* (All kinds of prayers, we said them all)."

In between the firing that began at 10 a.m. were frightening periods of waiting for the next volley of shots to erupt.

He said that whenever they were down on the ground taking cover, he and his teammates would look at each other.

"We were ready to surrender to our fate," he said.

There was a point Veneracion said when he felt tears in his eyes. A Marine became teary-eyed himself in the face of the heavy assault.

"The firepower of the other side was far greater than that of the military," he said.

Marines held on

By his own count, Veneracion said the Marines were "vastly outnumbered." They were about 100 compared to the "500" very determined attackers, he said.

"But even if they were outnumbered, the Marines stood their ground," he said.

Despite the shooting around them, the television crew was able to videotape the firefight, he said.

But when they had to rush to another location, the crew had to abandon its camera equipment. It was later retrieved by military reinforcement teams.

Veneracion said it was around sundown that he and his crew, with other Marines guiding them, were able to run to a location held by military reinforcement teams.

It was 30 minutes of walking and running, and finally relief that their ordeal had ended.

Never again

It was a "miracle, to say the least," he said.

One of his cameraman, Roxas, sustained a slight wound in the left ear after being hit by sharpnel.

"We were lucky enough to survive," Veneracion said. "It's hard to go back to this kind of situation again."

Veneracion said he and his crew joined the Marines hoping to get a good story—until one of the trucks found the mud.

Veneracion said that Roxas told him: "I only see this in movies."

"For me, this is my last (coverage) of this kind," Veneracion said.

Poverty may push Moro women to do acts of terror for survival

From page A1

comes her way a favor from anybody who will want her to commit a crime, though against her will," Sandra Basar of the Muslim Chamber of Commerce and Industry told reporters.

"It's like what they call *kapit sa patalim* (clutching at straws)," she said.

Basar's warning came in the wake of police reports that terrorists belonging to the Jemaah Islamiyah are recruiting women and children for bombing missions in Central Mindanao.

Basar was among 300 people, mostly members of 15 women's rights groups, who participated in the three-day forum dubbed "Poverty Reduction: Women, We mean Business."

The groups should constantly watch over the possibility that women, too, could become terrorists themselves, she said.

US Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie Kenney, one of the guests, underscored the important role that women played as mothers, citizens and leaders in attaining a secure and more stable society.

Such society stands firmly against all forms of security and economic threats, she said.

To address poverty, Kenney said, women must have sustained "community involvement into entrepreneurship and in bridging peace."

"Women entrepreneurs, women in peace process need to get going," she said.

Another forum

That poverty could have its human twist in the commission of terror was brought up in another forum held here yesterday and participated in by women members of media.

Bianca Miglioretto, a Swiss radio and alternative media officer of the women's group Isis International, said that women were involved in suicide bombings in Palestine and the other war-torn regions she had visited.

These suicide bombers were hailed as "heroines" and were driven into doing it by "a thirst for recognition," Miglioretto said.

New JI strategy

Supt. Robert Kiunisala, South Cotabato police director, told reporters in Koronadal City that JI operatives were particularly recruiting in poverty-stricken areas surrounding the Liguasan Marsh. "This is part of their new strategy," he said.

The swampland, bounded by North Cotabato, Maguindanao and Sultan Kudarat, is also home to the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Kiunisala said authorities had tightened security anew in the region because of the JI activity.

Last month, a car bomb was recovered along a busy street in Koronadal. An earlier series of explosions killed nearly a dozen people in some parts of Central Mindanao.

'Princess of Love'

Sandra Sema, a Unesco representative, conferred on Kenney the honorary traditional title of Bai Pinadtaya na Kutawato (Cotabato's Princess of Love).

"I'm honored with such recognition. Cotabato is a great place. Let's work together for peace to reign here. The minute we have peace, we can tell others to come and invest here," Kenney said.

New Abu chief Yaser Igasan is Tausog, 'very spiritual'

From page A1

new Abu Sayyaf leader was familiar in Sulu because "he's Tausog and he hails from Talipao."

Jikiri said he also heard from sources in Talipao that Igasan was "very spiritual."

Asked if he heard any story about Igasan's battle record, Jikiri said, "I have no idea, but you know what a Tausog does in battle."

Tausog is a Muslim ethnic group known for being warriors.

Janjalani became leader of the extremist group in late 1999 after his older brother, Ustadz Abdurajack Abubakar Janjalani, founding head of the group, died in 1998 in Lamitan, Basilan.

The military last month identified the new Abu Sayyaf leader as Yaser Igasan, who is in his 40s and a key fund-raiser of the group. He replaced Khadaffy who died in a battle with government forces late last year.

After Abdurajack's death, the Abu Sayyaf experienced a power vacuum, said the source, who became an active member of the group in the early 1990s and is now an employee of the Basilan provincial government.

Stumbling block

The source, who can't be named for security reasons, said there was opposition to Khadaffy becoming the Amir.

The former Abu Sayyaf member said one of the stumbling blocks to Khadaffy assuming the top Abu Sayyaf post was Igasan, a classmate of Khadaffy's at the Darul Imam Shafi in Marawi City in 1993.

Darul Imam was established in the early 1990s by the International Islamic Relief Organization (IRRO). It was headed by Mohammad Jamal Khalifa, a brother-in-law of Osama bin Laden.

Superior

As part of the second batch of Darul Imam graduates, Igasan was appointed "mushrif" by Khalifa. The term means "superior" or someone at the top of his class.

HANDOUT PHOTO

YASER IGASAN: First photo published of new Abu chief.

"Yaser is three years older than Khadaffy and gained experience in battle earlier than Khadaffy," the source said. In addition, Yaser is also as nearly as knowledgeable as Ustadz Abdurajack, said the former Abu Sayyaf member, who recently visited relatives in Metro Manila.

Igasan was among those who fought against the Marines when the first Abu Sayyaf camp in Basilan, Camp Al-Madinah, was attacked. It was eventually taken over by government forces.

The source said Igasan also took part in the raid on Ipil town in Zamboanga del Sur in April 1995 that resulted in the deaths of more than 50 people.

"He was wounded during the pursuit operation [against the Abu Sayyaf] in Ipil," the former Abu Sayyaf member said.

In contrast, Khadaffy was not present in either of the two key events.

Top three choices

When the field commanders and urban cell leaders of the Abu Sayyaf were selecting a new Amir in 1998—the top three choices were Yaser, Khadaffy and Radhulan Sahiron, in that order.

"Khadaffy's name and popularity among supporters outside were taken into account. So it was agreed upon that he be given guidance by Yaser and Radhulan [while at the helm of the group]," the source said.

For a year, Igasan played a low-key role in the Abu Sayyaf, allowing Khadaffy to flex his muscle and show his leadership.

But in 2001, Igasan left the country for Saudi Arabia as an overseas Filipino worker (OFW) with a valid passport, according to the source.

"Being an OFW was just his cover. He later joined the group of Aho Abdurahman, who was active in the jihad movement in Afghanistan," the former Abu Sayyaf said.

He said Igasan funneled funds from alleged supporters in Saudi Arabia into the Abu Sayyaf.

Reorientation

Igasan's presence in Saudi Arabia proved to be pivotal in the reorientation of the Abu Sayyaf into what it is now, the source said.

The reorientation meant going back to basics: Strengthen the Al-Harakatul Al-Islamiya [Abu Sayyaf], which means The Islamic Movement in English.

"Igasan knew why, amid the kidnapping of [American couple] Martin and Gracia Burnham, Khadaffy, along with Abu Soliman, were fetched by two foreigners in September [2001]. The purpose was to sharpen Khadaffy's knowledge of Islamic fundamentals," the source said.

In 2001, this reporter wrote about two men from Yemen who came to Basilan and left with Khadaffy and Soliman.

Former hostages from a coconut plantation in Basilan revealed the same information during debriefing with military intelligence officials.

The Yemenis were present when Abu Sayyaf members were listening to the news on a transistor radio about the attack on the Twin Towers in New York on Sept. 11, 2001, according to a former hostage.

Gracia in her book, "In the Presence of my Enemies," recalled a similar incident about the group's reaction to and jubilation upon hearing the news of the 9/11 attack.

An officer of the Philippine National Police said very little was known about Igasan except that he was a Tausog and someone who was trained as a mujahideen in Afghanistan.

EU court lifts freeze on Joma's assets

BRUSSELS—THE EUROPEAN UNION'S Court of Justice overturned on Wednesday a decision by EU governments to freeze the assets of exiled Filipino rebel leader Jose Maria Sison and the Netherlands-based Al-Aqsa Foundation. Both are on the EU's terror list.

Sison is the founding chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines. He is now chief political consultant of the National Democratic Front, the CPP's political arm.

The Luxembourg-based court said EU governments breached European law by not informing the parties why their assets were frozen under the EU's antiterrorism policies.

In its ruling, the court pointed to a similar judgment in December that overturned an EU decision to freeze the assets of the People's Mujahadeen of Iran (PMOI), an Iranian opposition group.

The EU ruling said "rights and safeguards were not respected" by EU governments in adopting decisions to freeze the assets of Sison in 2002, and Al-Aqsa in 2003.

The court's decision did not rule on whether Sison or Al-Aqsa should be removed from the EU terror list entirely. However, the ruling raises more questions over the EU antiterror measures rushed in after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States.

Under its previous ruling, EU governments were asked to review whether the Paris-based PMOI should be taken off the terror list.

The EU has refused to remove the group and argues that it has met the court's demands by providing the PMOI with the required information about its inclusion.

The organization has responded with a lawsuit seeking euro1 million (US$1.35 million) in damages, claiming the EU was obliged by the court ruling to annul the 2002 decision designating it as a terrorist group.

An EU panel added Sison, who is living in exile in the Netherlands, to the terror list in October 2002. He was placed on the list both as an individual and as a purported member of the CPP's armed wing, the New People's Army.

Sison's lawyers argued that he has not been a leader of the CPP since he was put in prison in 1977 in the Philippines. He left the country in 1986.

The Netherlands-based Al-Aqsa Foundation, which describes itself as a charity aimed at improving the welfare of Palestinians, was added to the EU terror list in June 2003.

It claims it carries out only humanitarian work and has no political affiliations. *AP*

SHORT AND SWEET: PDI president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez and INQUIRER union president Dona Pazzibugan celebrate the end of a rancor-free CBA negotiations that were completed in five meetings. ERIK ARAZAS

PDI union, management sign new CBA after …

From page A1

solve our differences," Pazzibugan said.

PDI president and CEO Sandy Prieto-Romualdez welcomed the expeditious and rancor-free negotiations and the growth-oriented CBA package as compelling proof of company unity. "We are truly one family," she said.

The new CBA, which takes effect July 11, 2007, runs until July 10, 2010.

The new CBA also grants a signing bonus to each of the PDI's 412 employees.

These and other provisions reflect both the challenges of the country's newspaper industry and the newspaper's sources of future growth, among them a surge of some 100,000 new readers in Mega Manila.

Most applauded

The most applauded CBA provision, announced at the signing rites held on the second floor lobby of the INQUIRER head office, was the extension of the retirability clause from 25 to 30 years.

"We thank the management for the importance given to our pioneers who have toiled to build up the INQUIRER when it was just a struggling mosquito press," Pazzibugan said.

Since its establishment in 1985, the INQUIRER has grown to become the country's No. 1 and most-awarded newspaper, and the only one with a profit-share provision in its CBA.

Despite less than ideal conditions for the entire newspaper industry, this year's CBA negotiations proceeded swiftly, helped by frank and intense discussions about both the company's finances and its growth prospects.

Record pace

Reinoso offered one possible explanation for the record pace of the negotiations. "We have imbibed the mind-set that economic benefits for employees should be based on the premises of sustainability, equity and justice."

Pazzibugan made the same point. "Here I believe we have made our mark. We have shown the way for future CBA negotiations … we come down to ultimately a common objective—to balance the welfare of our workers with ensuring the company's sustainability."

The union panel included Michael Lim Ubac, Joel Nigos, Marie Fe Reyes, Grig Montegrande, Ernie Sambo, Christian Esguerra, Noel Piano and Norman Bordadora.

The management panel included Evelyn Escueta, John Nery, Abel Ulanday, Jesse Rebustillo, Rolly Suarez, Simon Yap and Shirman Tan.

The new CBA is the seventh such agreement concluded in the company's 22-year history.

United Tree LENDING CORP
2% CAR/TRUCK LOAN
YR. MODEL 1992-2007
PAY-OFF PAST DUE W/BANK
1 HOUR RELEASE
656-0140/4112547-48/531-5577
PASIG QUEZON CITY MANDALUYONG

idec
AIRCONDITIONER
The New Split Type Aircon
Wall-Mounted
1hp-P16,500
1.5hp-P18,500, 2hp-P25,000
2.5hp-P30,000, 4hp-P43,000
Floor Mounted
3hp-P39,500 5hp-P55,000
Ceiling Mounted 3hp-P39,500
4hp-P52,000 6hp-P65,000
Ceiling Cassette 3hp-P50,000
Also Available Window Type Aircon
Free Installation!
Call 243-2610 241-4731 (0919) 2482183
Available at: MC Home Depot / Fort & Ortigas
Cebu (032) 3465498 Davao (082) 2198821 www.idecaircon.com

David-Link "Your office machine-solution provider"
HEAVY DUTY BINDERS
Wire Binder WB-4025D
Plastic Comb Binder
40 Holes (14") 24 Holes (14") BM-C24D
MIMEOGRAPHING MACHINE
• Adjustable Printing Position • Pre-Set Counter
SO-8800
• 120 copies per minute • Dual Operation
BILL COUNTERS
• UV Counterfeit Detector • 900 notes per minute
MC-2088 MC-2088
• UV Counterfeit Detector • Variable Speed • Preset and Addition Mode • Note Detection
CHECKWRITERS
• Multi-Currency 14 Digits • HEAVY DUTY CW-1600
• 10-Digits • With Calculator • Embossed Printing • HEAVY DUTY
KI-800
LAMINATOR
13 INCHES LM-330A
• Adjustable Temperature • 4 HEAVY DUTY Rollers
Other Sizes 9 & 18 inches
BUNDY CLOCKS
• Two Color Printing • W/ Musical Melody • Auto Card Feed • Auto Column Shifting • Back-up Battery • HEAVY DUTY
CALL NOW! 815-1046
E-mail: davidlink ph@yahoo.com
Website: www.niboworld.com.sg

Silence means yes...
...You have bad Breath
Break the silence with TheraBreath
Features the Oxygenating Technology VIII™ to refresh Breath & Taste safely & effectively WITHOUT any harmful chemicals
NORVILLE FRESH BREATHERAPY CENTER

An Invitation To A Pilgrimage To The
HOLY LAND
PLUS EGYPT
14 Days
DEPARTURE DATE: October 10, 2007
Fr. ARNIE BOEME, O.C.D.
Pilgrimage Chaplain
EXECUTIVE RESOURCES, INC.
THE CENTER for PILGRIMAGES since 1984
Lower Lobby, Century Park Hotel, P. Ocampo St., Malate, Manila
Call Merle, Lenie or Diamond • Tel. Nos. 523-8581-88,521-4156
Fax: 526-0126 • E-mail: pilgrimage@execres.com.ph
Website: www.executiveresources.com.ph
DOT-161-2006
IATA PTAA

CITYLAND We commit, we deliver.
2007 Leading Condominium Developer National Awardee
Office of the President, HUDCC - HLURB
GRAND EMERALD TOWER
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Own a unit for as low as
P 9,530/mo.
MAKATI 812-2222 818-8888
ORTIGAS 687-3333
MANILA 242-1212 243-6565
www.cityland.net

Most Complete Line of Cleaning Equipment
WH 2112 w/ Automatic Stop System
WH 3517E
KYORITZ Brushcutter
GREASE PUMP Air Operated
ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT for CARWASH BUSINESS
Now Only P39,500
Commando 4003
1900 PSI/2.5 HP
With Complete Accessories
High Pressure Washer For Personal Use
Guaranteed The Lowest Price In The Market
INDUSTRIAL HIGH PRESSURE WASHER UP TO 7000 PSI AVAILABLE
Major Credit Cards Accepted. Deferred Payments Up To 24 Mos.
Exclusively Distributed by CLEANCITY COMMERCIAL INCORPORATED
MAIN: 1851 M. OROSA ST., MALATE, MLA.
Tel. Nos.: 5245290 • 5244328 • 5240529
Sun Cellular: 0922-8825326 • 0917-7896670
646 QUEZON AVE Tel. 7490581 • 7493709

www.sountex.com
Hear more
Major Credit Cards Accepted
In-house Financing Available
Getting a new hearing aid is an important step towards improving your quality of life. Compare before you buy and experience the Sountex™ difference.
Total Customer Focus Hearing Care Approach
Our experienced, friendly and caring consultants will provide
• FREE "no-obligation" hearing tests
• FREE lifetime service guarantee
• FREE battery replacements with every regular half yearly service
At Sountex, the hearing test is prompt, precise and painless. If you are unable to come in for a test, we can arrange for you to take it in the comfort of your own home.
FREE hearing test and consultation.
Call 867-1916 today.
For inquiries outside Metro Manila, call our toll-free number 1-800-10-8671916.
Room 1, 2nd floor Gillamac Bldg., #40 Don Gil Garcia St., Capitol Site, Cebu City
Tel. No.: (032) 2538964
ACCREDITED BY THE PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF AUDIOLOGY
Sountex
The Hearing Care Professionals
Hearing Solutions from Siemens

Republic of the Philippines
National Economic and Development Authority XI
Davao City

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid for: The Construction/Completion of the Regional Development Council (RDC) XI Center cum National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) XI Secretariat Administration Building (Design and Build Scheme)

The NEDA Regional Office XI, with funding under the 2007 General Appropriations Act, intends to apply the sum of ***Twenty-Five Million Pesos (P25,000,000.00)*** being the **Approved Budget for the Contract** (ABC) for the project located at Bangkal, Davao City. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the financial proposals.

The NEDA XI now calls for the submission of Letter of Intent (LOI) from potential bidders to apply for eligibility for the ***Construction/Completion of the RDC XI Center cum NEDA XI Secretariat Administration Building (Design and Build Scheme).*** Interested bidders can submit their LOIs starting **July 12, 2007** at NEDA XI, 2nd Floor GB Cam Building, Agustin Alvarez Street, Davao City and secure Eligibility Documents therefrom. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on **July 23, 2007, 5:00 P.M.** The date of the opening of the Eligibility Documents is on **July 24, 2007** starting from 9:00 in the morning. Only those that are eligible will be entitled to submit a bid.

Bidding will be conducted through ***Competitive Bidding*** procedures as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to Filipino citizens or organization with at least seventy five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. *In accordance with IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only bids from eligible bidders will be opened.* The contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the NEDA XI BAC Secretariat during office hours, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. The documents required in the Eligibility Documents shall also be submitted as part of the Technical Documents of the Bidders as provided in the Instruction to bidders.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the NEDA XI BAC Secretariat and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos **(P5,000.00)**. The bidding documents can be secured from NEDA XI Office personally by the bidder or his authorized representative starting **July 30, 2007, from 8:00 to 5:00 P.M.**

The NEDA XI will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on **August 6, 2007, 2:00 P.M.** at NEDA XI Conference Room.

Eligible Bidders must submit their sealed Bids in NEDA XI Office on or before **September 14, 2007, 5:00 P.M.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of **Cash or Manager's Cheque** in an amount of **Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (P250,000.00)**. Late bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on **September 18, 2007, 9:00 A.M.** at NEDA XI Conference Room.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from NEDA XI during office hours.

The NEDA XI reserves the right to reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

July 10, 2007.

National Economic and Development Authority XI
2nd Floor, GB Cam Building
Agustin Alvarez Street, Davao City, 8000

Tel. Nos. (082) 227-7495, 226-4212
Fax No. (082) 226-4212
Email address – neda@pldtdsl.net

(Sgd.) **BONIFACIO G. UY**
Chair, NEDA XI BAC

(PDI–July 12 & 15, 2007)

SUPER LOTTO 6/49 THURSDAY, 12 JULY 2007 JACKPOT PRIZE

P76,000,000.00

Jackpot amount may change depending on actual sales until 8:30 PM of July 12, 2007

BUY YOUR TICKETS EARLY!

GO TO YOUR FAVORITE LOTTO OUTLET NOW.

Militants: Outlawing CPP breaks 17 pacts

From page A1

morally binding and sanctioned by internationally accepted principles and laws President Macapagal-Arroyo and her league of extraordinary terrorists in Malacañang are obliged to honor and respect," he said in a statement.

Agreements

Among these agreements are the 1992 Joint Hague Declaration urging both parties to resolve the armed conflict through political negotiations, the 1994 Breukelen Joint Statement, the 1995 Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees, and the 1995 Joint Agreement on the Formation, Sequence and Operationalization of the Reciprocal Working Committees.

The administration has come under criticism over the haste with which it wanted to implement the Human Security Act (HSA) of 2007 or the so-called antiterror law even without the implementing rules and regulations.

Hicap said the government move would "put to waste" efforts by former Presidents Corazon Aquino, Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada, as well as the Royal Norwegian government in seeking solutions to the decades-old insurgency.

Ermita and Gonzalez announced on Tuesday that the government would ask the courts to outlaw the CPP-NPA, along with the Abu Sayyaf bandit group, under the terms of the HSA.

With the three groups declared as terrorist organizations, the government would ostensibly be armed with more tools to go after them. The controversial HSA allows the detention of suspects for up to three days without formal charges, including the use of wiretapping devices on suspected terrorists.

Stalled peace talks

The "terrorist" label was particularly ticklish in the efforts to resume peace talks between the government and the National Democratic Front, the political wing of the CPP.

The talks bogged down in 2004, partly after the government failed to work on the removal of the CPP-NPA from the list of international terrorist organizations drawn up by the United States and the European Union.

On Tuesday, Ermita harped on the same list in asking the courts to outlaw the groups.

"Even if the CPP-NPA is listed as terrorist by foreign governments, that doesn't mean the Philippine government must immediately follow suit," Araullo said yesterday.

"That is simply illogical and does not serve the national interest of forging ahead with the peace talks. In fact, the foreign terror listing has been a major obstacle to the peace process," she said.

Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr. warned against the possibility of a "proscription spree" by the government when the HSA takes effect on July 15.

"Who's next on the list? Will we be proscribed, too? The government has labeled [our group a] 'CPP front organization' and has either killed or abducted our members. Are we to be banned as well, on top of the killings and abductions?" Reyes said.

He said such a label on many progressive organizations had led to the spate of extrajudicial killings and disappearances of militant activists under the Arroyo administration.

"The proscription of the CPP is even worse than the repealed anti-subversion law because there is a heavier penalty," Reyes said, adding:

"There is also a great danger that people will be harassed or arrested on the false claim that they are CPP members."

Not automatic

According to Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, one of the framers of the antiterror law, the administration cannot implement the HSA starting Sunday because it has yet to fully comply with the requirements.

"The law's effectivity is not automatic," Pimentel told reporters. "They are mistaken when they say the law will take effect on July 15. It [cannot be implemented] until after the publication of the law in its entirety in newspapers of national circulation and papers of regional circulation using the dominant language of that area, such as Cebuano in Cebu or Hiligaynon in Iloilo.

"Second, the broadcast [requirements] of the principal points of this law on TV and radio [must also be met]."

Pimentel also noted that one of the safeguards he introduced had yet to be instituted.

"It is not enough that the police or the Anti-Terrorism Council decide. Any decision should also pass through a special division of the Court of Appeals to be formed by the Supreme Court. I am not aware that there is this division," he said.

"They still have plenty of things to do before they can implement [the HSA]."

Pimentel and other senators are questioning Malacañang's apparent haste in implementing the law even without the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) needed to fine-tune its practice in actual situations.

The senators are expected to take up the issue when Congress opens.

Pimentel stressed that senators had introduced safeguard measures in order to tame the HSA's "oppressive nature."

"There is no guarantee that they will not abuse it, but the opportunities [for abuse] are much reduced than in the original version," he said, citing the reduction of the maximum stay for warrantless arrests from 15 to three days.

Pimentel also questioned Ms Arroyo's announcement that communist rebels and religious extremists would be among the No. 1 targets of the HSA.

"I don't understand the focus of her announcement because when we were debating the bill, Senator [Juan Ponce] Enrile, who was the principal sponsor, made a statement that insurgents were not included. [The announcement means] that just because they are in the communist rebellion they are automatically considered terrorists," Pimentel said.

Not even the US and European countries' inclusion of communist groups in their terror list should have any bearing on the government's decision on who or what are terrorists, he said, adding:

"We have to [identify terrorist groups] ourselves because we are a sovereign country. The right to call [anyone] a terrorist belongs to us."

Pimentel said the groups listed had every right to resist being called terrorist.

He said as well that the HSA did not define what constituted terrorism but only the actions that could be considered terrorist acts.

Biazon worried

Like Pimentel, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon insisted that the IRR should be crafted before the antiterror law was implemented.

He said the IRR should also pass legislative scrutiny.

"I would ask for the deferment of the law until such IRR are published," he said.

Biazon said he was "worried" by Ermita's pronouncement on Tuesday that the HSA could be used against members of the CPP-NPA.

"Are we not reliving Republic Act No. 1700, which was already repealed in the 9th Congress?" he said.

RA 1700, or the Anti-Subversion Law, outlawed the CPP. It was repealed by Congress in 1995 as the Ramos administration undertook peace negotiations with communist insurgents, secessionist groups and military rebels.

Enough already

But Davao City Rep. Prospero Nograles, who shepherded the HSA in the House during the past Congress, said that the law had enough safeguards for the protection of civil liberties and human rights and that there was no more need for the IRR.

Nograles said Pimentel's 100 or so amendments to the HSA already provided ample protection against rights violations.

One example is the compensation of P500,000 for every day of warrantless detention by the authorities on suspicion of being involved in terrorism.

"The House version has already been watered down," he said. *With reports from Dona Pazzibugan and Norman Bordadora*

INTERFAITH PROTEST against the antiterror law is highlighted by the display of the photos of victims of kidnappings and enforced disappearances at the Baclaran Church. ERIK ARAZAS

Ka B

From page A1

covered at lea
about a third of
P1,062,340 as of
the Philippine H

The oppositio
sent letters of gu
Jamby Madrigal
Sergio Osmeña I
II, Pia Cayetano a
ero, according to
a member of Belt

The adminis
were Ramon M
Juan Flavier.

Clemente
pledged P10
P50,000; Roxas,
ña, P25,000; Ca
Escudero, P20,
P50,000, and Fla

With the sena
donations from
Beltran's bill a
amounted to
P140,000.

Beltran, 74, w
ly after Presider
royo declared a
cy in February 2
under "hospital
Philippine Hea
April 2006 fortu
tension and othe

The Supreme
with finality the
al's appeal of the
ing the rebellion
Beltran and five
party-list represe

The Suprem
paved the way fo
terday of Beltra
nee of Anakpaw
party-list groups
ners in the May
the Commission

Villar and Ar

Beltran said
Manuel Villar, wh
ly for reelection

Jonas ma seeks SC help; Vel

From page A1

Address [in 2006], which strongly suggests her mailed-fist policy against her political enemies with no regard to human rights."

Palparan, now retired, is the former head of the Army's 7th Infantry Division (ID). Militant groups have tagged him *berdugo* (butcher) for the killings of their members in areas where he was assigned.

Jonas, 37, was forcibly taken by a group that included a woman at the Ever Gotesco Mall in Quezon City on April 28.

On Monday, Velasco named five of the six persons who purportedly conducted the abduction. He said three were assigned to the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp), and the other three, to the Army.

Other respondents

In holding Ms Arroyo accountable for Jonas' disappearance, Burgos cited United Nations Special Rapporteur Philip Alston's report stating that AFP officials were in denial about military involvement in extrajudicial killings, and the European Union's criticism of the Philippine government for the poor rate of conviction regarding the killings.

The other respondents in her petition were AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, Army chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, 7th ID head Maj. Gen. Juanito Gomez, Isafp chief Maj. Gen. Delfin Bangit, Lt. Col. Noel Clement of the Escort and Security Battalion, 56th Infantry Battalion (IB) commanding officer Lt. Col. Melquiades Feliciano and Philippine National Police Director General Oscar Calderon.

Said Burgos: "The President and Commander in Chief of the [AFP] has the duty to investigate who among the respondents have command responsibility for the enforced disappearance of Jonas Joseph T. Burgos."

According to Burgos, the respondents should also be held responsible for her son's disappearance under the doctrine of command responsibility because they failed to prevent summary executions and to prosecute those behind these.

She expressed the belief that the Army in general and Clement and/or Feliciano were responsible for abducting Jonas because the plate number of the vehicle allegedly used in the abduction was in the custody of the 56th IB starting in June 2006.

Police access

Clement headed the 567th IB at that time. Feliciano was his successor.

Burgos also asked the high court to order the AFP to allow the police access to the Provost Marshal's report on Jonas' disappearance and relevant facilities, and to ensure that military officers would be available to the police for investigation.

As for the PNP, she said she believed that the ties of its officers with military men were hampering their investigation.

"The police investigators and the Army officers to be investigated are all alumni of the Philippine Military Academy, and their strong sense of brotherhood (but often misplaced as demonstrated in the investigation of the Jonas case) inhibits the police from conducting a more thorough and impartial investigation of their fellow PMA alumni in the Army," she said.

Burgos pointed out that the inquiry had not gone beyond the discovery of the plate number of the vehicle supposedly used in the abduction. She said the police had neither been provided a copy of the Provost Marshal's report nor asked for information about Clement or Feliciano.

She said the Provost Marshal's report was important to discover the extent of Feliciano and Clement's supposed participation in Jonas' disappearance, as well as the responsibility, if any, of their superiors Gomez and Tolentino.

Relief from tribunal

In seeking relief from the Supreme Court, Burgos said she hoped it would ensure that something was done to look for her son.

She expressed hope that the high court would "promulgate rules concerning the protection and enforcement of constitutional rights" ... and thereby enable state institutions to enforce human rights more effectively and to prevent enforced disappearances of activists and other forms of gross violations of human rights."

Burgos said she we
court after other gov
tutions failed to help h

"I have gone to alm
tions from which to
and I have not be
Jonas is still missing,
am at the Supreme Co
I will see Jonas here,"

Burgos' lawyer, Ri
dez, told reporters th
to go to the tribunal
Court of Appeals bec
habeas corpus petiti
to the Court of Appea
only because the milit
custody of the disappe

He said the AFP co
ing custody of Jonas
lieved the high court
the military to find ou
dered and conducted

Burgos also said sh
the military agents na
co actually existed.

She said she woul
search: "The only me
ing here is I am not go
continue looking for
Whatever it takes, I
look for him."

'No proof'

Gonzalez said Velas
of the names of the fiv
tary agents plus a sixt
fied only as "T.L." (or
was unfair to the AF
the government in a b

"He should not ha
First, he has no proo
ones. As a matter of
been denied already
git. What is the result
placed the onus of
claims] on the govern
lez said.

The justice secreta
should have strength
dence before making
posed military involv

COURT OF LAST RESORT: The indefatigable Edita Burgos go Supreme Court to file a petition for habeas corpus for the mil produce her missing son Jonas who was abducted April 28.

CEBU PACIFIC AIR.COM

Rain rain might not go away -but you can!

LOWEST YEAR-ROUND GO FARES

P99	Cebu - Bacolod
P288	Cebu - Iloilo or Zamboanga Davao - Zamboanga Manila - Laoag or Legaspi
P568	Cebu - Clark, Kalibo or Davao Manila - Bacolod, Cebu, Dumaguete, Iloilo, Kalibo (for Boracay!), Puerto Princesa or Roxas
P688	Cebu - Puerto Princesa NEW! Manila - Tacloban or Tagbilaran
P998	Manila - Butuan, Cagayan de Oro, Cotabato, Davao, Dipolog, General Santos or Zamboanga
P1,499	Manila - Kuala Lumpur
P1,999	Manila - Guangzhou, Macau and Xiamen NEW! Manila - Taipei NEW! Cebu - Hong Kong Manila - Hong Kong
P2,499	Cebu - Singapore Davao - Hong Kong (via Cebu) Manila - Singapore Manila - Bangkok
P2,999	Manila - Shanghai NEW! Davao - Singapore (via Cebu) Manila - Jakarta (non-stop)

MOST DOMESTIC DESTINATIONS • MOST DOMESTIC FLIGHTS • MOST DOMESTIC ROUTES • NEWEST PLANES

Call (02) 70-20-888 or visit the Travel Agent nearest you.

One way fares/vice versa • Limited seats • Fares may not be available on all days and flights • Fares are exclusive of applicable taxes, fees and surcharges (ranging from P650 to P2,100 depending on destination) • Promo is non-refundable

go FARES

CEBU PACIFIC It's time everyone flies.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

el's bill now down to ₱140,000

to P325,000 or Beltran's bill of Tuesday night at art Center.

n senators who arantee included Franklin Drilon, I, Manuel Roxas nd Francis Escud- Cherry Clemente, ann's staff.

ration senators gsaysay Jr. and

aid Madrigal .000; Drilon, P50,000; Osme- etano, P20,000; 00; Magsaysay, vier, P10,000.

ors pledges and other sources, s of yesterday ustom more than

s arrested short- t Macapagal-Ar- tate of emergen- 06. He had been arrest" at the tc Center since atment of hyper- ailments.

Court has denied Solicitor Gener- lecision dismiss- charges against other militant ntatives.

Court ruling the release yes- the first nomi- s one of the 13 proclaimed win- 14 elections by n Elections.

oyo, too

nate President ovran successful- under the Genuine Opposition, and Sen. Joker Arroyo, who was reelected under Team Unity, also contributed to help foot part of Beltran's medical bills.

"I'd like to thank the lawmakers who helped fill the massive gap between my hospital bill and my personal capability to pay," Beltran said.

Clemente, also secretary general of Anakpawis, said Beltran's outstanding hospital bill as of 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday amounted to P757,140.70.

3 doctors waive fees

Fortunately, only three of his 10 doctors charged Beltran for their services as of yesterday afternoon. Beltran's staff had expected on Tuesday night that his doctors' fees would reach P300,000.

Clemente said Beltran was also billed for a "hospital reader's fee" of P4,424.

"Quite honestly, we are wiped-out. Our party-list group never had much to begin with. Our name itself says we're a party of toiling masses," Clemente said.

"When Ka Bel was arrested, we had no one else to turn to but our allies, friends and supporters. The May 14 elections also ate up a lot of our party funds—we were even forced to dip into the funds for Ka Bel's hospitalization-detention so we could bolster our electoral campaign," she said.

Clemente blamed the Arroyo administration for Beltran's and the party's financial woes.

"Ka Bel's incarceration, the enormous bills and our group's financial problems are all the doing of the administration. It's because we continue to fight for the rights of the poor and marginalized sectors of society," she said.

Clemente said Anakpawis was able to come up with a P75,000 down payment for Beltran's hospital bills as of Tuesday evening.

"We continue to solicit the financial support of sympathetic individuals and groups to help settle Ka Bel's hospital bills. We would very much welcome support even from the leadership of the House of Representatives which once promised that it would pass the hat for Ka Bel," Clemente said.

On his first day as a free man, Beltran yesterday filed a bill calling for the repeal of the Human Security Act of 2007, which will take effect on Sunday.

Dark clouds overhead

He warned of a worse type of authoritarianism with the implementation of the antiterror law.

"There are dark clouds overhead because of the impending implementation of the antiterror law. Now is the time for unity against worsening authoritarianism," Beltran said at a news conference that marked his first day out of detention.

"For the sake of millions of civilians who will be further victimized by a most paranoid, vindictive and repressive government and its armed forces and so-called intelligence agencies, all sectors of society must unite against the antiterror law," he said.

FIRST DAY OF FREEDOM: After 16 months of "hospital arrest," party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran of Anakpawis holds a press conference on Wednesday to grill President Arroyo and members of the Cabinet on internal security and the Human Security Act. JOAN BONDOC

GCASH

GCash, a pioneer in MOBILE COMMERCE, expands its reach through BPI, a pioneer in ATM and MOBILE BANKING. Now, moving your money from your BPI account to your GCash wallet (cash-in) and transferring cash from your GCash wallet to your BPI account (cash-out) has never been so easy!

1 ONE-TIME GCASH REGISTRATION

Register via text:
Text REG<space>4-digit PIN/ mother's maiden name/ first name/last name/ address

REG 1234/Garcia/ Maria/Lim/31 Pilar Road, Las Piñas City

SEND TO 2882

2 ENROLL IN BPI EXPRESS MOBILE

Enroll through your branch of account or through BPI Express Online

3 TRANSFER MONEY TO YOUR GCASH WALLET

• Go To My Favorites in Globe Svcs+ Menu
• Select BPI Mobile
• Select GCash Transfer
• Select Bank to GCash

* Bank charges apply

Once registered, you can send cash, reload your phone, or pay your bills anytime, anywhere! With the power of BPI, you'll always have money in your GCash wallet readily available!

SEND GCASH FROM PHONE TO PHONE

3000 1234 Mama share ko sa baby

Key in:
AMOUNT<space>PIN<space>optional 70-CHARACTER MESSAGE and send to 2882 + 10-digit Globe cellphone number of the recipient

WITHDRAW CASH FROM THE BPI ATM NEAREST YOU

Transfer your money from your GCash wallet to your BPI account for withdrawal anytime, anywhere.

* Bank charges apply

BUY LOAD USING GCASH

Just text:
LOAD<space>AMOUNT<space> 4-DIGIT PIN and send to 2882 (for self) or 2882 + 10-digit Globe cellphone number of the recipient

For self: LOAD 500 1234 — SEND TO 2882
For others: LOAD 500 1234 — SEND TO 28829171234567

May 10% REBATE ka pal

AVAILABLE AMOUNTS:
₱10-25 • ₱50 • ₱75 • ₱100 • ₱125 • ₱150 • ₱300 • ₱500 • ₱1000

Call 2882 for more information.

of course, ang lakas mo sa Globe

ásco sacked

es to the tary to

REM ZAMORA

nt to the high rnment insti- er find Jonas. ost all institu- seek recourse n successful. which is why I rt. Hopefully, he said.

ardo Fernan- they decided nstead of the use "previous ns remanded s were denied ry had denied ured."

uld deny hav- ut that he be- could require who had or- he abduction. believed that med by Velas-

not stop her age I am say- ng away. I will nyson Jonas. will stay and

o's disclosure alleged mili- man identi- team Leader) and had put d light. ve done that. they are the ct they have y Delfin Ban- that? He has sproving [his ment," Gonza-

said Velasco ned his evi- ublic the sup- ment so that

the government could defend itself.

He said the people would further doubt the government because of Velasco's disclosure.

He added: "The government gets weakened by things that we cannot prove ourselves. You say one thing, and it would turn out to be untrue. It may not be true, but in the minds of the people, it is, and they may think the government is just covering it up.

"It is unfair to the military also."

Gonzalez likewise said the identification of the military personnel could give false hopes to the Burgos family.

"You have to be prudent in things like this. There's a life involved. I think Velasco was just excited to get in the news. He did not clear it with me," Gonzalez said.

Nevertheless, Gonzalez said, Velasco's directive to the National Bureau of Investigation to question the named military personnel would stay.

He also said Velasco would not be told to step down from the Presidential Task Force Against Media Harassment.

Shooting from the hip

Earlier yesterday, Gonzalez expressed displeasure over Velasco's "shooting from the hip."

"I'm thinking of relieving him from the case because it aggravates the situation with the military. It's not good," Gonzalez said in an interview at the Cagayan de Oro airport, where he was waiting for a flight back to Manila after attending the Palace-led peace and order summit.

"If the story [about the agents] is true, it will not hurt anyone. But if that was shooting from the hip, that is not good for the government, for the Isafp, for the police, for the Department of Justice," Gonzalez said.

He also said he was not taking Velasco's claim of a death threat seriously. He said that if there were such a threat, Velasco had "invited" it.

Emperor

Bangit, who was also at the Cagayan de Oro airport, denied he was behind the death threat. But he neither confirmed nor denied going by the code name "Emperor," saying the use of aliases was an "operational security" matter.

Velasco had claimed receiving a text message that his days were numbered for crossing the "Emperor."

He said this was known to be Bangit's code name, but added that he was not accusing the Isafp chief of having anything to do with the threat. *With a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

THURSDAY, JULY 12, 2007

ISSN 0116-2642

INQUIRER

Vol. 22 No. 214

OPINION

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Website: www.inquirer.net/opinion

Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
•Subscription Hotline 896-6000

•100% soy ink•

Political from the start

EDITORIAL

THE DAY AFTER JOSEPH ESTRADA WAS ARRESTed, on plunder charges, on April 25, 2001, this newspaper expressed a hope, a consummation devoutly to be wished. "Whatever happens now, in the courtroom and in the streets, it is clear that the nation has just crossed a threshold. We hope the crossover leads to greater political maturity."

Six turbulent years later, as the Sandiganbayan prepares to render its decision in the most famous trial in our history, we must ask ourselves: Has the nation, in fact, grown more politically mature?

The PR war over the anti-graft court's imminent decision—not so much imminent, Estrada said, but already pre-written—suggests one possible answer: The country traded political maturity for political sophistication.

People close to Malacañang may have been the ones behind a series of advertisements asking the public to accept the Sandiganbayan verdict, regardless of whether it found Estrada guilty of plunder or not. Estrada himself immediately called the ads an insidious attempt to condition the mind of the public to the inevitability of a guilty verdict. What has followed since is a savvy, high-stakes campaign, waged by parties on both sides of the political fence, to claim the political and moral high ground.

Even the Palace's own pronouncements have added fuel to the fire, and have been seized by Estrada allies as further proof that the anti-graft court had been politically compromised. (We did say greater political sophistication.)

But, in fact, the non-legal part of the process was political—or, rather, politicized—from the start.

Some of the very same groups who now profess indifference to the ultimate fate of Estrada had vigorously protested, in the three months between his ouster and his arrest, what seemed to them to be an interminable delay in the processing of the ex-president's warrant of arrest. Even before Estrada was arrested, they had already questioned the integrity of the Sandiganbayan.

Estrada himself famously attacked the Sandiganbayan, withdrawing his counsel and refusing for a time to cooperate with the court. His own lawyers tried to outdo him in undermining the legal process; in 2002, one of them assailed the creation of a special court, designed to expedite the unprecedented trial of a former commander in chief, in hysterical terms: "All special courts are there not to render justice but have an element of vengeance."

In the beginning, both chambers of Congress had also sought to influence the course of justice, passing resolutions, for instance, recommending medical treatment abroad for Estrada. While couched in politically correct language, the resolutions actually tried to introduce political considerations into judicial decision-making.

Throughout the trial, however, it was Malacañang that was perceived by many as politicizing the process. Even such early controversies as the proposal to televise the trial (rejected), or to change Estrada's place of detention (approved twice), were exploited by the administration's critics as proof of the administration's pernicious influence on the court.

Today, even PlunderWatch, which brought the suit in the first place, considers the prosecution politically compromised and the Sandiganbayan effectively politicized.

And yet: It cannot be said that the anti-graft court has conducted itself in a manner unworthy of the public trust. While some of its decisions have been controversial, on the whole it has acted judiciously. The trial of a former president is legal terra incognita; the Sandiganbayan, in the last six years, has proven to be adept at both surviving the doldrums and avoiding the roiling waters where dragons hide. What a pity if stormy political weather is allowed to destroy all that the court achieved.

Emissions reduction

FOREIGN COMMENT

THE WORLD NOW HAS TO CONVINCE CHINA, INDIA, BRAZIL and other emerging industrial nations to participate in intergovernmental efforts to curb global warming. Specifying the responsibilities of developing nations is one major challenge faced by the architects of the "post-Kyoto framework." Particularly crucial is the part to be played by emerging industrial nations. China, for one, has lately begun to indicate its readiness to fulfill its reasonable amount of post-Kyoto responsibilities.

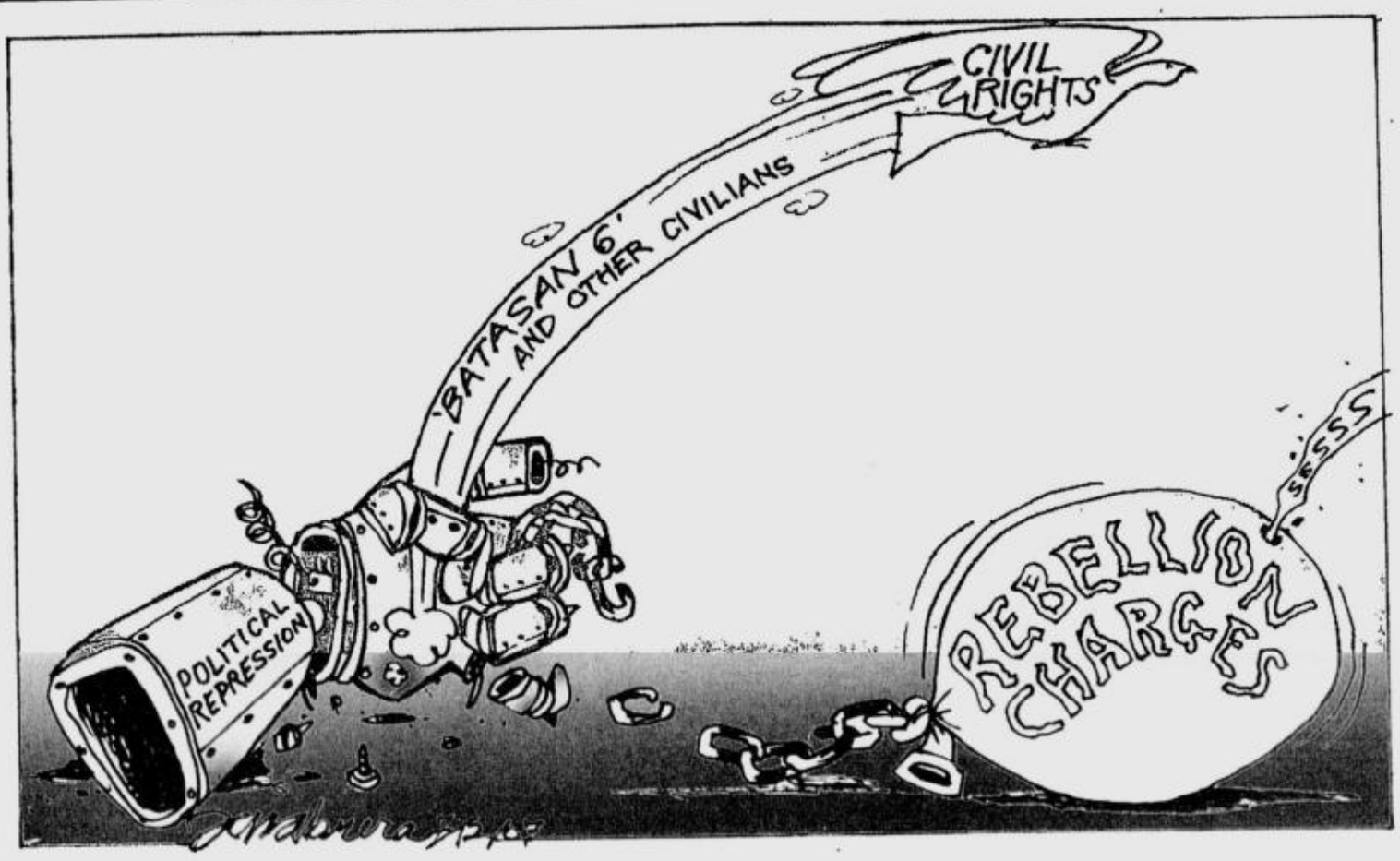
This autumn, the post-Kyoto discussions will begin in earnest. We hope the agreement reached by the end of this year will cover such basic issues as emissions reduction targets and requirements, with at least China and other new industrial powers on board. *Asahi Shimbun (Tokyo)*

Publisher ISAGANI YAMBOT
Editor in Chief LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC
Managing Editor JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO
Associate Editor ABELARDO S. ULANDAY
Associate Editor for Readership ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO
News Editor ARTEMIO T. ENGRACIA JR. • *Chief, News Day Desk* NILO B. PAUROM
Opinion Editor JORGE V. ARUTA
National Editor PERGENTINO B. BANDAYREL JR.
Senior Desk Editor JUAN V. SARMIENTO JR.
Editorial Consultant AMANDO DORONILA
Chief Photographer ERNIE U. SARMIENTO
Art & Design Director LYNETT A. VILLARIBA

Board Chairman MARIXI R. PRIETO
President ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing RENATO R. REINOSO
VP for Advertising FELIPE R. OLARTE
AVP for Circulation SANDY SIMON R. YAP

Readers' Advocate LORNA KALAW TIROL
readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph • Tel. No. 897-8808, Loc. 342

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.



Big bucks trade

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"THE FLIGHT SCHEDULE WAS PINNED ON the wall. And the pimps argued that they had an understanding with 'the chief'," recalled the team fielded by Fr. Shay Cullen. "But the cops who came with us were from another station."

As payoff discussions raged, the Preda team sped off with a mother and a child. "If only we could have rescued all the girls, it'd have been a great day's work," the Preda team said. "Unfortunately, that was impossible. They were all teenagers. And one had a baby."

Welcome to what the US Justice Department ranks as the third largest criminal enterprise worldwide: human trafficking. It is big bucks. "Traders" rake in $9.5 billion yearly in sleaze, the United Nations Development Fund for Women's Noeleen Heyzer said at an Asian Development Bank meeting.

Trafficking ranges from prostitution and debt bondage to forced labor and exploitation of children as sex slaves or soldiers. In this grim underground bazaar, firm data are hard to come by. "The stigma placed on victims of sexual exploitation" is one reason. There isn't "even a name for the problem at community level." Few victims are aware of their rights.

The extent is under-reported, but what emerges jolts. Fifty-four out of every 100 trafficked Filipino children are between 15 and 17 years old. "Guesstimates" of child prostitutes range from 60,000 to 100,000.

In Joey Velasco's "Hapag Ng Pagasa" (Table of Hope) painting of 12 street kids at dinner with Christ on a slum table, one model—Tinay, 5—had been repeatedly raped. "She has this far-away look" wails the aunt.

Globally, 12.3 million migrants are enslaved or in sexual servitude at any one time, says the International Labor Organization. Massive poverty, corruption and armed conflict force-feed desperate migrants, in ever greater numbers, into affluent nations that in "an age of migration alarm" are closing borders.

Girls from the villages of Thailand, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia and the Philippines are lured into cities or abroad with pledges of well-paying jobs. Many end up in brothels. "It is not acceptable to have a crisis of survival where the only way out for a family to survive is by trafficking their daughters," Heyzer added.

"We will leave your family P3,000 which will be your usual salary in Cebu," the recruiter told the teenager, University of Nevada's Riki Repanis recalls in "Prostitution, Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery in the Philippines." The ill father rose to hug his daughter, crying: "Be careful, be careful." All nine siblings wept. But the girl insisted that she must go and help her family. "So they went to Cebu and were brought to Kamagayan, the old place of prostitution in Cebu City. That first night, she was raped by eight men."

Government disbanded its airport anti-trafficking team a month ago. Why? Because every manjack trafficked. Read and squirm over what the US State Department asserted in its "Trafficking Persons Report" of June 2007:

"The Philippines is a source, transit and destination country for men, women and children trafficked for purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor. A significant number of Filipino men and women, who migrate for work, are subjected to involuntary servitude in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, South Africa, North America and Europe.

"Women and children are trafficked within the Philippines, primarily from rural areas in the Visayas and Mindanao, to urban areas. (They do) forced labor as domestic and factory workers, and in the drug trade, and for sexual exploitation.

"A smaller number of women are occasionally trafficked from the People's Republic of China, South Korea, Japan and Russia to the Philippines for sexual exploitation... Foreign tourists, particularly other Asians, sexually exploit women and children."

Cebu City is a major destination point for traffickers. Samar, Bohol, Leyte and Negros Occidental record a rising number of victims. So do a number or Mindanao cities.

Some traffickers harness the Internet for their operations. "Many women end up working for pornography websites where they perform sexual acts in front of webcams for paying customers."

Countries need to "raise public awareness and create public outrage," adds Heyzer. And they must "make it difficult for traffickers to operate with impunity."

The Philippine record is mixed. In Olongapo City, foreign sex traffickers harass Catholic and other groups by lodging multiple libel and other suits. A major target has been Father Cullen and his hospices for the abused. Department of Justice officials seek to blunt this harassment.

The Philippines was the first country to adopt in 2003 an Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act. And Quezon City Regional Trial Court Judge Teodoro Bay sentenced a couple to 160 years in prison for peddling "starlets" to moneyed sex trade clients. There are seven convictions now.

Overall the Philippines has enough laws, says the Nevada University study. "The problem is implementation."

In Cebu, a task force operated ineptly. Police were untrained. Lawyers lacked understanding of the new law. "The net effect seems to be punishment of the girls, not the perpetrators."

"They sit there and look, like this (Cebu) barangay official," the Nevada University study quotes a nun helping girls trapped in the red light district. "But he has his own bars. Many of the brothels there are owned by policemen. 'Oh, he is my customer,' a girl will tell us. And now, he is the one who imprisons me."

* * *

E-mail: juanlmercado@gmail.com

Missing

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR A MOVIE FOR some time now, but my favorite Moro trader doesn't seem to count it among his wares. The movie is "Missing." It was shown ages ago, in the early 1980s, when it had a most intense impact here, given that the circumstances it depicted were not unlike our own.

"Missing" tells the story of a father (Jack Lemmon got an Oscar for the part) who searches for a missing son in Chile. It is the story of a *desaparecido* told from the point of view of the searcher rather than the searched, the appeared rather than the disappeared. It is also a voyage of discovery, though the discoveries are not of the nature of Magellan's but of Joseph Conrad's. It is a journey into the heart of darkness.

While searching for his missing son, Ed Horman (Lemmon) discovers variously a land God forgot, where violence and torture are used with impunity; a land he no longer recognizes, which is his own, America, land of the free and brave now championing the ways of oppression and murder for profit; and a land whose geography he had never managed to chart, which is his own heart. He discovers a son he barely knew in all his magnificence and largeness of spirit. In the end, Horman finds his son among the many dead in Chile, massacred when Pinochet came to power. But he also finds what has been missing in his life in more ways than one.

Each time I see Edita Burgos on TV, I remember that movie. She has been looking for her missing son all this time and my heart bleeds for her. I do not know how she feels; to say I do is to commit a heinous crime of presumption. No one does, no one can. Looking for a missing son or daughter is the cruelest ordeal of all, as only a parent and a kin of a *desaparecido* combined can know. If you can't sleep at night, anxious that your son or daughter hasn't come home yet, you have an idea of the meaning of fear and trembling.

Multiply that a thousand times, and you catch a glimmer of what the kin of the *desaparecidos* go through. The most painful thing, they say, is not knowing, with all the mind-tricks it plays on you. On one hand, reason tells you that someone who has been missing that long can't be alive anymore. On the other, hope tells you the impossible may yet happen, the disappeared may appear miraculously out of the woods, archetypal or literal, emaciated and bedraggled but alive. Horrible as it sounds, better that your kin is "salvaged," they say. At least with the certainty they are dead, you can embark on a quest for justice with one heart and mind, not with them rived by a war more ferocious than the one in Iraq.

There are differences between Edita Burgos and Ed Horman. Unlike Horman, an innocent father who could not comprehend what his son was trying to accomplish in that wretched place, Edita understood completely what her son was trying to do in this wretched place. Her son was helping others the way her husband, and his father, did. Whatever Edita might discover, how deeply she loved her son would not be one of them. She had always known that, even while he was there.

But the parallels are legion, and uncanny. Like Horman's son who was an American and presumably untouchable in a country whose rulers America was propping up, Edita's son was presumably untouchable in a country whose freedom his father had done so much to redeem. By sheer *utang na loob*, or gratefulness, alone, this country was duty-bound to never do Joe Burgos' kin harm on pain of eternal damnation. Yet the impossible not only happened, it happened with epic contempt: Jonas was dragged away from a very public place in broad daylight in plain view of witnesses while he struggled and shouted for help.

Like Ed Horman, Edita Burgos' quest for a missing son has brought her to discover a land that God and democracy forgot, a land whose rulers torture and murder presumably to erase a blight from this earth but in reality to keep one permanently there, who are themselves. At least in the Chile that Pinochet wrested from Allende, it was to be expected. He made no bones about the shift being one from democracy to tyranny, from liberalism to dictatorship, to be defended with violence and terror. In the Philippines that GMA wrested from Erap, the opposite was to be expected, the shift would be one from tyranny to democracy, from the dark of night to the dawning of a new day. Yet the country has fallen into an even darker night, the crime all the more heinous for the chasm between expectation and realization.

And like Ed Horman who could not understand how his own country could be party to the crime by tacit support, Edita Burgos could not understand why her own countrymen, whom her husband risked life and limb to free, could be party to this crime by sublime passiveness, by terrifying cowardice. It is the moral geography of this land that is no longer recognizable, having lost map and compass.

I've suggested to friends that if we were going to hold rallies and demonstrations to protest Jonas Burgos' disappearance, we would do well to wear masks of his face. It's not just that it's guaranteed to land the event in the six o'clock news, it's also that it's guaranteed to drive home the message that we are all Jonases. *Hindi ka nagiisa*. What happened to him can happen to us, what happened to him is happening to us. His fate is our own, his kin's quest for justice is our own.

But now I'd suggest we all wear masks of Edita Burgos' face. The unspeakable monstrosity that has befallen her has befallen us, her dogged pursuit to find the missing is our own, her journey of terrifying discovery and ragged hope is our own.

Who knows? If we did that as one people or one nation, we may yet find what is missing in our lives.

House should have open balloting for speakership

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

SOME SUPPORTERS OF CEBU REP. PABLO GARCIA are proposing a secret balloting to elect the speaker of the 14th Congress. This, however, would break the time-honored tradition where members elect the top official of the House of Representatives in open balloting and give the reasons for their support. It's a proud tradition that should be continued. Apparently Garcia's supporters want a secret balloting so they wouldn't be known and thus they can lobby for juicy posts with the winner. But this is a cowardly way. A politician's life is always full of risks and if I'll be pardoned for saying this, "*Dapat magpakalalaki ang lahat*" (and that includes the female lawmakers) to face the consequences of their decision. Besides in a secret balloting, it would be difficult to know who will compose the majority as well as the minority.

* * *

The Commission on Elections should stop flip-flopping over the proclamation of Team Unity senatorial candidate Juan Miguel Zubiri, who won in the canvassing of votes from all the places in Mindanao and the Visayas that had been disputed. Genuine Opposition candidate Koko Pimentel went to the Supreme Court for the second time to stop Zubiri's proclamation, and it's unclear what the Comelec would do, despite the lack of an explicit order from the Court barring it. The Comelec is not setting a good precedent for election protesters; in the future, they would be encouraged to keep delaying their opponents' proclamation and the Comelec would look so helpless. With less than two weeks before the opening of the 14th Congress, Zubiri can only hope for quick redress from the Court.

* * *

Last June 26, the French Embassy conducted a symposium in cooperation with the Ateneo University on "Philippine-French Historical Relations," as part of the celebration of the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The four-hour symposium at the Ateneo featured an array of distinguished speakers who brought a wealth of charming and largely unknown insights on French nationals who settled here. Many of them left their mark on education and philosophy, agriculture and trade, while others got married here and were integrated into the local culture, giving rise to prominent clans. To Ambassador Gerard Chesnel belongs the credit of putting this most interesting symposium together.

Before turning back the hands of time, Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, SJ noted in his brief opening remarks the vigorous and mutually satisfying exchange of students between the Ateneo and French universities. This school year 40 Ateneo students will go to France, with 30 of them studying in Lille. The Ateneo president said French students here are quite adaptable, with some of them preferring to live in Barangka, Marikina. Many volunteered to build houses in Bicol after the strong typhoons.

* * *

The symposium disclosed fascinating trivia: Among the 287 sailors brought by Ferdinand Magellan were 18 Frenchmen, including the master gunner, who never returned to his country. During the week-long celebration of the Pact of Biak na Bato at the Ayuntamiento in Intramuros as well as during the Malolos Congress, French menu was served. By 1885, Restaurant de Paris in Manila, which supposedly had French chefs, was the most sought-after caterer of the ruling class.

Most interesting were stories of Frenchmen who settled here and started generations of French-Filipinos. Yves Leopold Germain Gaston of Normandy was hired in the early 1800s by a Batangas family to supervise a sugar plantation. Eventually he moved to Silay, Negros Occidental, with his Batangueña wife and three children, producing the best sugar and the most beautiful mansion in Silay City that remains its star attraction today. Gaston, who died in May 1863, produced eight generations of descendants. Some of them entered politics in the Visayas and Mindanao, while a few became clergymen.

The story of the Dreyfus brothers, jewelers by profession, began 109 years ago when they went to RP and set up a jewelry store. Hearing of the booming sugar industry in Negros, Charles Dreyfus went there while Jules remained in Manila and eventually left for the United States. Charles befriended a rich planter named Juan Anacleto Araneta, whose daughter Elisa never let him go. When the Philippine Revolution against Spain broke out, Araneta, who assumed the rank of general, took his French son-in-law as his aide and they fought together against Spain. Charles later settled in Bago as a planter and became three-time mayor there, while raising a huge clan in the Kanlaon area.

* * *

Leopold Kahn of Alsace worked for the jewelry firm Levi Hermanos, and later left to found La Estrella del Norte, the most prestigious department store on Escolta in pre-war years, and La Estrella Auto Palace. He married a woman from Surigao who bore him five children. When she died, he married her sister who bore him eight children. Two of his children, Ernest and Raul, became successful businessmen, too.

Michel Joseph Henry, born in Marseilles, arrived in Manila in 1869 at the age of 39, crossing via the new Suez Canal. He served briefly as honorary consul of Brazil in Manila, and later changed his name to Miguel Henry. He was employed by the French Consulate to handle maritime affairs. Miguel settled in Ermita and had a relationship with 18-year-old Eulalia Aguilar y de la Rosa by whom he had eight children. Eventually, they got married but by then he had become "Lolo Midio" to his huge clan from which the prominent Guerreros of Ermita were descended. The symposium's emcee, Deanna Ongpin-Recto, is related to this clan through her Chinese ancestors, the Temponcos of Binondo. Ambassador to South Africa Virgilio Reyes is also related to this clan through a French connection named Antoine Levitier.

(To be continued)

Remembering Lean

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

THE YOUTH OF THIS GENERATION OUGHT TO have and ought to know someone like him, someone so passionate and dedicated to a vision and a cause—and yet so endearingly likeable. Ask his friends and comrades.

He was the quintessential student or youth activist. Leandro "Lean" Alejandro was all of 27 when he was killed in a hail of bullets 20 years ago. He was emerging from his organization's office when the forces of evil swooped down on him and gunned him down. The predators had caught up with their prey and would turn him into mincemeat. What they did not know was that the spirit of this young man would live on and beyond, while the rot in his attackers' murderous souls would continue to fester as long as they lived.

To quote writer Jo-Anne Q. Maglipon who made a moving testimony at Lean's 47th birthday: "Someone else like Lean had to take more." Lean is now beyond it all, and yet his example remains within reach. Will someone like him again emerge on the horizon?

Two nights ago, Lean's friends from a wide spectrum, mainly political activists of all shapes, sizes, stripes, colors, ages and advocacies, gathered to celebrate his life and also their own. "Gabi ni Lean: Isang Pag-alaala" was a night of remembering. Words, music, food and drinks flowed at the Peta theater in Quezon City. There was much laughter, and sometimes tears, as people recalled the life and times of Lean through live and video testimonies. This was to again connect to this young man who lived intensely, bravely and romantically.

How to introduce Lean to those who did not or do not know him.if not through his own words? Here is something he wrote to Lidy Nacpil, who was going to be his wife, widow and mother of their only daughter. This says a lot about who he was and is food for thought for those who are still wondering about the hierarchy of things in their lives. This is vintage Lean, a classic.

"The socialist man must know how to compute the distance of the stars, how to differentiate a fish from a shark, a mammal from a reptile. He must know how to distill wine into liquor and how to arrive at $e=mc^2$. He must know how to cook bacon, butcher a pig and roast a lamb. He must be capable of leading armies into battle. He must know how to follow orders, give orders and he must know when to disobey them. He must be able at debate, at lobbying, at open struggle. He must know how to analyze difficult political situations, how to get out of one and how to convince others that they must do the same. He must know how to sail a ship, dig a latrine, construct a pigsty, wash clothes, wash dishes, plan an offensive, plan a retreat, mix martinis, drink martinis, differentiate brandy from whisky, keep quiet, participate, take care of babies, manage a state bureaucracy, soothe pain, comfort the sorrowful, maintain his composure in hot water, when to watch, when to participate, repair appliances, maintain a car, purge revisionists, ride a horse, run from a bull, swim, play tennis, drown gracefully, sink with his ship with honor along with the mice, discuss Mao, debunk Zinoviev, ridicule Stalin, appreciate a beehive, raise chickens, cook chickens, play boogle (respectably), correctly read Mabini, recruit members into the movement, motivate members to struggle, host a party, play at least one musical instrument, be critical, self-critical, honest... The socialist man is the total man. Specialization is for ants.

"It is Marx who teaches us the real meaning of creativity, of true sentiment and communist passions. I expect Marxists, or those who profess to go by that title, to be most sincere, honest, dignified, humble, cultured, mature and sensible. Marxists without an ethic are Stalins. Marxism teaches man to be total. Marxism enables us to develop into the total human being. Liberal humanism tried to do this but failed because they did not know how to go about it. Again, only a Marxist ethic is truly humane... I can be pretentious enough to conclude that I am a Marxist. And it is precisely because of this fact that I can appreciate Tolkien and appreciate him unabashedly."

Yes, Tolkien. Several of those who spoke about Lean that night expressed regrets that Lean did not live long enough to watch the "Lord of the Rings" movie trilogy. Lean had known and fought battles with class and heart.

By the way, the soundtrack of the musical "Lean" which was staged 10 years ago has been reissued and is available on CD. How to make Lean alive again on stage was a difficult task for its creators and the actors. The right music, words, choreography and everything else could have come only after everybody had resurrected Lean in their minds and in their hearts and knew him again. For Lean was many things to many people. As Cookie Chua (who played Lidy) sang so soulfully, "*Paano mamahalin ang katulad mo?*"

Oh yes, Lean had a lot to say about love, romantic love. His treatise on traditional and radical romantics could be enriching for both Valentine's Day homilists and hard-core revolutionary pedagogues. But let's save that for February.

But love, indeed, was at the core of Lean's commitment to the cause of justice and freedom. He saw beyond his time. "I am quite convinced that in a few years' time, the nature of our struggles will change drastically. We shall have to launch a democratic version of the socialist revolution. The national democratic struggle will be left behind by history and we shall be buried with it in the heap of antiquity if we do not shake ourselves awake and really lead."

Yes, and really lead with integrity. Lean showed how.

* * *

Send feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph

You get what you wish for

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

I HAVE NEVER BEEN FOR PARTY GOVERNment, because strong parties make for a weak citizenry.

What is the purpose of a political party? To obtain power and then, to hold on to it. What is the purpose of party loyalty? Position. You work together, you elect one of your own; one of your own makes room for members of the party according to the patronage opportunities accorded him by office.

Parties should fight over issues, you say? Before 1946, the issue was: independence now, or later? After 1946, the defining issue of any election is that uniquely Filipino expression, "graft and corruption": keep the current rascals, or replace them? Today, it's poverty and the lack of social justice. Every election has been fought on one of these issues. They're too broad, too simple, for you? Tough.

The only people who don't believe issues are represented by the candidates and voted upon by the public are people who hate elections and don't want the public to choose our officials. Whether their "alternative" is a dictatorship of the proletariat or a Lee Kwan Yew-style strongman, when such people take the public out of the equation, why should the public bother to give them the time of day? And in any case, parties being what they are, how can parties be part of the solution?

But parties must be about ideology! But it's there, spelled out, for every party. The Lakas-CMD is the party of the post-Edsa years. It's been recognized by fellow Christian Democratic parties the world over; how much more bona fide can a party get? The Liberal Party is recognized by Liberal Democratic parties the world over, too; and our local communists continue to have "solidarity" links to their Maoist fellow travelers abroad. Kampi moves according to the dictates of the President's family: it is the family party, and it is being true to itself. Who, then, can claim it is acting improperly? In Britain, where parties are strong, the Whigs were once the party of the Hanoverian monarchy, the family party. Kampi fulfills the same role. How is ideological "purity" to be measured? Christians can't even agree which Christianity is "real," how much more the politically inclined?

Time and again we've seen parties behave the way they should: according to a consensus among their members, headed in a direction their leaders point out, united by a sense of common purpose motivated by shared goals with their constituents. When Speaker Jose de Venecia moved to adopt constitutional amendments, he did it as a party leader, with the help of loyal party members, according to the ways and means parties use. The public disagreed, to be sure, but that's because the public is not the party—which is, when you come to think of it, a healthy rejoinder to the parties, and people who advocate parties.

Ah, but there's a difference, you say, between the parties people want and the parties people get. But where was it ever not different? In Britain, where Tony Blair had to answer police questions because titles of nobility were being sold to beef up party coffers? Germany, Italy and the long list of countries where Christian Democratic parties have had their leaders disgraced by allegations of corruption? America, where Republicans appointed state attorneys to prosecute Democrats? The Communist Parties of China, Russia, Vietnam, North Korea? Where have parties ever been the people? Parties in power end up invoking the police power against the people, regardless of the ideology of those parties.

But then aren't our parties merely the personal platforms of the wealthy? Parties in Britain were essentially factions of the landed aristocracy, until membership became a matter of members paying dues, which financed the parties and freed them from being dependent, financially, on the dukes and earls. But you will never have a party with enough dues-paying members to sustain operations; donations will always have to be solicited from those who have more money than the rest. Politics operates according to the Golden Rule: whoever has the gold, makes the rules.

I do think critics of Senators Francis Escudero and Alan Peter Cayetano are being unfair, or at least, the critics who also claim they want a political system that has an electorate that votes for parties and not personalities, and officials who act according to party loyalty and platform. Cayetano is a Nacionalista and his party chief is Manuel Villar Jr. So he must go in the direction his party leader points to.

Escudero is a member of the Nationalist People's Coalition, itself a spin-off from the NP, and his party has stood foursquare by the side of President Macapagal-Arroyo all these years. At the end of the day, Escudero, as a good party man, must stand where his party chooses to stand: beside the President. If he felt uncomfortable with this ultimate alignment, he would obviously have left his party by now. And he hasn't.

As does Sen. Francis Pangilinan, who, on the other hand, values his independence more than he does his party affiliation, or how else to justify his ultimate loyalty to the Wednesday Group rather than his fellow Liberals? What matters more, to him, are the people he chooses to eat with than the people he happens to be partymates with. If his partymates valued party affiliation, they could have expelled Pangilinan by now. He has acted more consistently like a Nacionalista, following the NP lead more than he has the LP's political direction.

Edilberto de Jesus, writing in a commentary on the Commission on Appointments, observed, "Where there are no real parties, there can be no party discipline to restrain legislators from abusing their gatekeeping powers."

But the problem is not that we lack real parties, but rather that our parties lack discipline.

Loser

YOUNG BLOOD

John Ruzel P. Abadiano

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I AM A CERTIFIED LOSER. AND I NEED NOT SAY IT, IT shows.

My genes have something to do with it. An attempt to trace its cause would lead to generations of men who were themselves losers. And I mean only men, because in my father's blood runs the medically challenged condition or affliction called alopecia (loss of hair). Just like the father of my father's father and so on...

Since the age of 20, I have been experiencing considerable hair loss. For me, it wasn't a big deal at first. Being a nurse, I believed that HIV-AIDS was the only disease that did not yield to treatment. Thus, I was not very much worried about the strands of hair that fell together when I was combing my hair or even just touching my head.

When dorm mates started to notice the change in the formation of my hairline and I became self-conscious, I had my head shaved. Almost every day then I wished I would look like an ordinary guy, play with my hair and have it all gelled up. Sadly, I found out that by putting more styling gel on my head would only aggravate the condition.

The thought that I was a nurse was reassuring in a way. I thought I would find out quite easily why I had alopecia. I tried to read every available material about the condition. And what I found out is that, and this is one fact that puts me in a denial mode, genes play a big part in it. I once asked my father if alopecia is some kind of a curse on his side of the family but he said he had no way of finding out, except for the sight of the men wandering in our family compound who were bald, either partly or completely.

Was there a way for me to end the curse? My dad suggested that I dig up my great-grandfather's grave and plead with him to spare me from it. If my plea would be granted, my dad joked, I would be the first one in the family to grow old with a low hairline. I ended up my quest for the missing link.

I also learned from my readings that stress is one of the factors that leads to hair loss. I instantly understood the reason why at my young age my hairline was starting to recede (my father probably started experiencing it in his early 30s, and I believe his ancestors did, too). I had all the stresses imaginable. In my last year in college, I became the editor of our university's student newspaper. I was engrossed, if not too obsessed, with coming up with a strategy to make the newspaper worthy of the attention of our target readers, the students. I spent sleepless nights and stayed awake while everybody else was already dreaming and insomniacs were busy raiding online chat rooms. As a senior student-nurse, I also had my hospital duty in the morning and lectures to attend in the afternoon. During weekends, I was reviewing for the upcoming board exams. And I also had to fulfill my other commitments as a member of a progressive youth movement.

I was lucky to graduate on time, despite the many responsibilities I had during my senior year. Then, there was the dreaded board exams which I had to take together with tens of thousands of other souls dreaming of becoming richly paid nurses abroad. Fortunately, I passed and I got my license to work as a nurse.

Barely a week after the results of the exams came out, I applied for a teaching job in my alma mater. One week later, I found myself standing in front of a class of more than 200 young students who wanted to be nurses.

In the meantime, my hair was becoming alarming. I tried to console myself by noting that most male professors were balding anyway. But I could not stop myself from looking at the mirror to check how far my hairline had receded fast. Then I would ask myself if this was due to the many sleepless nights I had while working on my lectures or computing the grades of my students. It could be both, I surmised.

But one day as I was doing research in the library, I chanced upon an article that discussed why most men left their condition untreated. It listed only one reason: they lacked the courage to face the fact and seek treatment.

I was enlightened. I swore to myself that the number of men roaming our family compound with hairlines that could allow small planes to land would be reduced by one. Enough of looking for the factors that contributed to my baldness. The nurse in me should be put to work.

I read all the materials I could find containing recommendations for the treatment of alopecia. I used all possible means to stop the condition: different shampoos, hair treatment and a less stressful lifestyle.

They worked in some ways but the results do not please me. I am still looking for ways to finally put an end to this affliction. My last resort, heaven forbid, would be to wear a wig, if a hair transplant proves unsuccessful. And I didn't want to even think of it.

To me this condition has become a medical puzzle, if not a serious problem. And I would feel sad if five years hence, scientists would find a cure for AIDS but not for balding.

John Ruzel P. Abadiano, 23, is a clinical instructor at the Manila Central University.

NOTICE TO YOUNG BLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Young blood

"I'm now 73, and young people should come in because they are more energetic, they have more ideas and they are more idealistic."

—Archbishop Oscar Cruz who resigned as archbishop of the Lingayen-Dagupan archdiocese last March

Hearts

"A broken heart does not mend but is encompassed by a bigger heart."

—Aleli Pansacola Crespo, first wife of Mark Jimenez

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

ANNOUNCEMENT

The JBC announces that the following are applicants for different judgeship positions:

REGIONAL TRIAL COURT (RTC): (NCJR) MANILA: (Brs. 11, 31, 42 & 48) SULIT, Cristina J. **MAKATI CITY: (Brs. 64 & 140)** AGUILAR, Narciso M.; ALTAREJOS, Mateo B.; AMPUAN, Alfredo D.; ARENAS, Santiago M.; ARQUELADA, Dominador L.; BAUTISTA, Jose L. Jr.; BLANCAFLOR, Jaime C.; BUEMIO, Danilo A.; CALDONA, Edgar M.; CALIS, Elpidio R.; CAPELLAN, Mario B.; CARBONELL, Antonio A.; CASTILLO, Silverio Q.; CEDILLO, Eranio G.; DIAZ, Augustus C.; GRAFIL, Evangeline Y.; ILAO, Toribio E. Jr.; JACINTO, Jose S. Jr.; LIWANAG, Rico Sebastian D.; LUBAO, Antonio C.; MACARAIG, Virgilio V.; MACATAÑGAY, Esther P.; MANODON, Catherine P.; MAÑALAC, Mary Ann C.; MONTOJO, Peter M.; OLIVETE, Antonio M.; PALAMOS, Gina B.; PELIÑO, Divina Gracia L.; PEREÑA, Violeta M.; PLATA, Ruben R.; QUINAGORAN, Rowena DJ.; QUITAIN, Eutiquio L.; REYES, Antonio C.; RUIZ, Joseph Cedrick O.; SINGH, Maria Filomena D.; SISCAR, Josefina E.; SISON, Dionisio C.; SOCRATES, Erasmo A.; SOLUREN, Corazon D.; SULIT, Cristina J.; TIENZO, Juanita C.; TIMOLA, Wilfredo V.; TOPACIO, Dinnah A.; TRIA, Roslyn R.; YANGA, Armando A. **REGION III - MALOLOS, BULACAN: (Br. 12)** ABAD, Melvin J.; ACOSTA, Benedicto Jr. M.; AGANON, Cesar L.; AGCAOILI, Alfredo P.; ANTERO, Rogelio D.; ARAO, Agnes D.; ASUNCION, Miguel S.; BALDERAMA, Angelito I.; BALIGOD, Rommel C.; BANDAY, Jose T.; BAUTISTA, Edgardo C.; BERNARDO, Elmer R.; BULATAO, Francia C.; BUSTAMANTE, Manuel R.; CABILES, Bernardino L.; CALDERON, Julita M.; CALONGE, Diosdado V.; CASTILLO, Virgilita B.; CHUA, Marifi P.; CRUZ, Evelyn B.; DABALOS, Nestor M.; DE JESUS, Jose Tereso Jr. U.; DELA CRUZ, Eduardo G.; DISTOR, Marcial C.; DIZON, Medwin S.; DOCENA, Zaldy B.; DOJILLO, Jaime Jr. L.; DUMLAO, Florentino Jr. R.; ESCARO, Roberto A.; FAJARDO, Alejandro Jr. D.; FALLER, Rolando B.; FLORES, Carlos M.; FORTUNO, Jose C.; GAMMAD, Rita M.; GASCON, Juvencio S.; GELLADA, Cecilio Jr. B.; GEROMO, Reyes G.; GONZALES, Teodora R.; HERNANDEZ, Ireneo D.; HERNANDEZ, Nyriam Susan S.; INANURAN, Encebrin J.; JAMIAS, Bayani M.; LACORTE, Alma Crispina C.; LEE, Evelyn P.; LIWANAG, Rico D.; LUYUN, Cielitolindo A.; MABANSAG, Cesar Y.; MACABAYA, Bonifacio M.; MACAPAGAL, Arnel D.; MAGSINO, Celso Raymundo Jr. DL.; MALABAGUIO, Arthur O.; MANGENTE, Job M.; MANGROBANG, Ma. Celestina C.; MATIRA, Rowena DC.; MIARAL, Ismael G.; MONTOJO, Rossana M.; OBINARIO, Tita S.; ORDA, Domingo Jr. I.; ORETA, Marie Antonette G.; ORTILE, Anjanette DL.; PACIS, Edward D.; PACOLI, Joel Victor E.; PENULLAR, Andrew M.; QUILANTANG, Romeo A.; RAMIREZ, Caesar D.; RAMOS, Larry G.; REYES, Alfonso Basil A.; REYES, Luis E.; RODULFO, Juan T.; SAGADAL, Omar L.; SAMPAGA, Maria Lelibet S.; SANTILLAN, Hannibal V.; SORDAN, Marie Claire M.; SUAREZ, Danilo V.; TARUC, Gloria Victoria Y.; TIENZO, Efren B.; TIMOLA, Wilfredo V.; TOBIA, Robert H.; TOLEDO, Ismael V.; VELASQUEZ, Gregorio M.; VENTURA, Alberto E.; VILLAVERT, Cecilyn B.; VILLEGAS, Mary Antonette Y.; VILLESPIN, Marion P.; YEE, Caridad V. **REGION IV - LIPA CITY, BATANGAS: (Brs. 13 & 85)** ACAIN, Carlos I.; ALIPOSA, Nepthali A.; ATIENZA, Eva P.; BANDONG, Dinah Evangeline B.; CALIS, Elpidio R.; CALONGE, Diosdado V.; CAPUNO, Eloida G.; CASTILLO, Renato M.; CASTILLO, Wilfredo P.; CHAVEZ, Pablo R.; CHUA, Marifi P.; CONCEPCION, Julius M.; CRUZ, Raniel S.; DE JESUS, Jose Tereso Jr. U.; DE LEON, Maximo M.; DE LUNA, Ambrosio B.; DELA CRUZ, Eugenio G.; DEYNATA, Purita M.; DUQUE, Perla Y.; FABROS, Lamberto C.; FALCIS, Rudiger II G.; GAJARDO, Pablo Jr. A.; GAYETA, Bella S.; ILAGAN, Gerardo B.; ILAO, Toribio Jr. E.; LAM, Villamin P.; LARCIA, Sofronio A.; LIM, Maximo B.; LINDOG, Noel M.; LLADOC, Victor P.; MACASAET, Ismael H.; MACATAÑGAY, Esther P.; MAGSINO, Celso Raymundo DL. Jr.; MANIGBAS, Arcadio I.; MATIRA, Rowena DC.; MAYNIGO, Wilfredo L.; MENDOZA, Ernesto C.; PAMINTUAN, Ricardo T.; PASIA, Pio M.; PASTRANA, Dennis R.; PEREÑA, Violeta M.; PILAPIL, Joannes V.; RAYOS, Armando A.; SANTILLAN, Hannibal V.; SANTOS, Aida C.; TAMARAY, Joselito P.; TENORIO, Buenaventura Albert J.; VELASCO, Armando C.; VELASQUEZ, Gregorio M.; VENTURANZA, Alberto E.; VILLANUEVA, Romeo L.; VILLANUEVA, Romulo SG.; ZAPANTA, Lourdes R.; ZULUETA, Jose R. **LUCENA CITY, QUEZON: (Br. 60)** ACAIN, Carlos I.; ARIZALA, Angelo R.; BALDEO, Expectacion B.; BANDONG, Dinah Evangeline B.; CAPUNO, Eloida G.; CHUA, Elvira C.; DE LEON, Maximo M.; DELA CRUZ, Eugenio G.; ELEAZAR, Victor Y.; ESPIRITU, Rio T.; GELLA, Victor C.; ILAGAN, Gerardo B.; JUSI, Uldarico M.; LIM, Maximo B.; MAGSINO, Celso Raymundo Jr. DL.; MALLARE, Efren B.; MAYNIGO, Wilfredo L.; MENDOZA, Ernesto C.; PEREÑA, Violeta M.; SAMPAGA, Maria Lelibet S.; SANTILLAN, Jose Jr. G.; TAMARAY, Joselito P.; VELASCO, Armando C.; VILLANUEVA, Romeo L.

METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURT (METC): (NCJR) - MANILA: (Brs. 4, 6, 20 & 29) AGUILLON, Eva L.; ALFONSO, Alfonso P.; ALVIAR, Elenita M.; AMOS, Marissa D.; APOLO, Raymunda C.; ARAO, Agnes D.; BACTAT, Theresa C.; BALMEO, Jose M. Jr.; BAYLON, Ferdinand C.; BAYSA, Andrew N.; BEDAÑA, Gina A.; BRIONES, Barbara Aleli H.; BRIZUELA, Wilfredo L.; BRUNO, Ruby R.; BUENALUZ, Hector DA. Jr.; BUENDIA, Jennifer D.; CABILES, Bernandino L.; CACHA, Lyn E.; CAMONGOL, Reynaldo M.; CASTELO, Ruth B.; CATALO, Leandro C.; CRUZ, Raniel S.; DABALOS, Nestor M.; DACANAY, Corazon T.; DE VEYRA, Ronald R.; DUEÑAS, Florencia H.; DUMLAO, Joy C.; DUNUAN, Larry B.; DUQUE, Perla Y.; ESCARO, Roberto A.; ESTORNINOS, Filotea M.; FAJARDO, Alejandro Jr. D.; FLOR, Paul A.; FLORES, Elisa S.; GAJARDO, Pablo Jr. A.; GINGOYON, Adeliza M.; GITO, Emily SG.; GO, Norma Z.; GRAVINO, Nida T.; HERNANDEZ, Joanne G.; HIPOLITO, Rosalia I.; HUERTA, Dante G.; JABALDE, Roline G.; LACORTE, Alma Crispina C.; LAGASCA, Flordeliza R.; LEACHON, Paulino C.; LIM, Antonio Jr. T.; LUY, Salvador A.; MACAPAGAL, Arnel D.; MANGALINDAN, Restituto Jr. V.; MAPALO, Anita C.; MATABANG, Peter Paul A.; MATIRA, Rowena D.; MEDINA, Antonietta P.; MEER, Phoeve C.; MONTESA, Jacob II M.; MONTESA, Rainelda E.; MORALES, Baltazar A.; MORENO, Ronald B.; NABAZA, Suzanne C.; NOBLEZA, Lemuel B.; OBINARIO, Tita S.; ONG, Jocelyn A.; ORTIZ, Jose Jr. R.; PANGILINAN, Maria Gilda L.; PARADEZA, Richard A.; PARICO, Bernardo L.; POSO, Romeo S.; PURISIMA, Angel III R.; QUERUBIN, Estrella S.; RAFA, Dennis J.; RAÑOCO, Norma G.; RAÑOLA, Juan Jr. G.; REYES, Millicent N.; RICALDE, Tomas Jr. T.; RODULFO, Juan T.; ROMAQUIN, Tomas Ken Jr. D.; RUIZ, Alfonso II C.; SAGADAL, Omar L.; SALOMON, Francisco L.; SALONGA, Rolando C.; SAMPAGA, Maria Lelibet S.; SAN GASPAR, Juliet M.; SANTILLAN, Hannibal V.; SANTOS, Aida C.; SANTOS, Editha A.; SARABIA, Ma. Rita R.; SARMIENTO, Sinforoso Jr. M.; SERRANO, Jesus G.; SHEEN, Ma. Ronely B; SORIANO, Ma. Ofelia C.; STA. CRUZ, Manuel Jr. B.; TOLENTINO, Ma. Maya Bien M.; TORIBIO, Joefferson B.; TORRIJOS, Ronald Q.; UY, William T.; VALDEZ, Hazel D.; VELASCO, Armando C.; VILLALON, Roman IV C.; VILLEGAS, Mary Antonette Y.; VILLENA, Jean Marie B.; VITOR, Marivic C.; YEE, Caridad V.; YU, Eliza B. **PASAY CITY: (Br. 46)** ADARLO, Elvira B.; AGAMA, Marilyn M.; BACTAT, Theresa C.; BAYLON, Ferdinand C.; BEDAÑA, Gina A.; BRIZUELA, Wilfredo L.; CABILES, Bernardino L.; CATALO, Leandro C.; DACANAY, Corazon T.; DE DIOS, Patrick Noel P.; DOCENA, Zaldy B.; ESCARO, Roberto A.; FALLER, Rolando B.; FORTUNO, Jose C.; FRANCISCO, Evangeline M.; GINGOYON, Adeliza M.; GITO, Emily SG.; GO, Norma Z.; LUANG, Marylin Cynthia M.; MACAPAGAL, Arnel D.; MANGALINDAN, Restituto Jr. V.; MANTALA, Apollo S.; MATIRA, Rowena DC.; MEDINA, Antonietta P.; MEER, Phoeve C.; MENDINUETO, Nerina Casandra A.; MONTESA, Jacob II M.; MORALES, Baltazar A.; POSO, Romeo S.; PURISIMA, Willie G.; RAÑOCO, Norma G.; RODULFO, Juan T.; SAGADAL, Omar L.; SALOMON, Francisco L.; SAMPAGA, Maria Lelibet S.; STA. CRUZ, Manuel Jr. B; TOLLEDO, Gaudencio Jr. T.; UY, William T.; VALDEZ, Hazel D.; VEDAN, Joel B.; VILLENA, Jean Marie B.; ZAPANTA, Lourdes R.; **PASIG CITY: (Brs. 70 & 72)** ADARLO, Elvira B.; AMOS, Marissa D.; APOLO, Raymunda C.; BALMEO, Jose Jr. M.; BAYSA, Andrew N.; BEDAÑA, Gina A.; BUENALUZ, Hector Jr. DA.: CABILES, Bernandino L.; CAMPANILLA, Mario B.; CASTELO, Ruth B.; CRUZ, Raniel S.; DACANAY, Corazon T.; DE VEYRA, Ronald R.; DOCENA, Zaldy B.; DUMLAO, Joy C.; ESCARO, Roberto A.; FLOR, Paul A.; FLORES, Elisa S.; GAJARDO, Pablo Jr. A.; GINGOYON, Adeliza M.; HIPOLITO, Rosalia I.; IRIARTE, Rafael M.; LACORTE, Alma Crispina C.; LAGASCA, Flordeliza R.; LAGMAN, Johli D.; LUY, Salvador A.; MACAPAGAL, Arnel D.; MANGALINDAN, Restituto Jr. V.; MANTALA, Apollo S.; MAPALO, Anita C.; MATABANG, Peter Paul A.; MATIRA, Rowena DC.; MEDINA, Antonietta P.; MEER, Phoeve C.; MEJORADA, Marina G.; MELLA, Adonis G.; MENDINUETO, Nerina Casandra A.; MIGUEL, J. Ermin Ernest R.; MONTESA, Jacob II M.; MONTESA, Rainelda E.; NABAZA, Suzanne C.; PAGDILAO, Elizabeth F.; PARADEZA, Richard A.; RAÑOLA, Corazon D.; RAÑOLA, Juan Jr. G.; RODULFO, Juan T.; ROMAQUIN, Tomas Ken Jr. D.; RUIZ, Alfonso II C.; SAGADAL, Omar L.; SAMPAGA, Maria Lelibet S.; SANTOS, Editha A.; SERRANO, Jesus G.; SY, Cornelio A.; TORIBIO, Joefferson B.; TORRIJOS, Ronald Q.; UY, William T.; VALDEZ, Hazel D.; VEDAN, Joel B.; VILLALON, Roman IV C.; VILLENA, Jean Marie B.; VITOR, Marivic C.; WEE, Edith Cynthia A.; YU, Eliza B.

MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES (MTCC): REGION III - OLONGAPO CITY: (Br. 3) BAUTISTA, Rose Mary E.; BEDAÑA, Gina A.; MALIG, Robert Alexande R.; RECITIS; Ildefonso F.; VIRAY, Raymond C. **REGION IV - STA. ROSA CITY, LAGUNA:** BALMEO, Jose Jr. M.; BAYSA, Andrew N.; BUENAVENTURA, Romeo S.; COLLADO, Francisco Jr. L.; DE LEON, Maximo M.; FLORES, Elisa S.; GALEON, Rowena M.; GARMA, Aileen S.; GENILO, Raymund R.; HERNANDEZ,Joanne G.; HIPOLITO, Rosalia I.; IBANA, Juliett V.; LINDAIN, Oscar L.; MANGALINDAN, Restituto Jr. V.; MANGUIAT, Fatima D.; MAS, Ana Marie T.; MATABANG, Peter Paul A.; MATIRA, Rowena DC.; MEER, Phoeve C.; MONTESA, Rainelda E.; MORALES, Baltazar A.; ORENDAIN, Angelina M.; PARCO, Peter Z.; PILARES, Teresa E.; QUINTANO, Ireneo M.; RICABLANCA, Amalia G.; SERRANO, Jesus G.; TORIBIO, Joefferson B; VICTA, Liza DL.; VILLENA, Jean Marie B.; WEE, Edith Cynthia A.

MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT (MTC): REGION I - INFANTA, PANGASINAN: MUÑOZ, Mauro Jr. R.; PARAYNO, Ferdinand DV.; PULMANO, Edna Lou C. **MANGATAREM, PANGASINAN:** FERNANDEZ, Zarah S.; PARCO, Peter Z.; RICABLANCA, Amalia G.; **UMINGAN, PANGASINAN:** MANUEL, Dominador A.; PARCO, Peter Z.; REYES, Remedios B.; RICABLANCA, Amalia G.; SANCHEZ, Plotinus T.; TOMBOC, Ephraim Sr. S. **REGION III - STA. RITA, PAMPANGA:** ANTERO, Janice Y.; BACANI, Bienvenido B.; BAYSA, Andrew N.; CRISTI, Lucita M.; DE GUZMAN, Caliope Jr. L.; HIPOLITO, Rosalia I.; MANGALINDAN, Restituto Jr. V.; MORALES, Baltazar, A.; PARICO, Bernardo L.; QUINTANO, Ireneo M.; TOLENTINO, Ma. Lourdes F.; TORIBIO, Joefferson B.; WEE, Edith Cynthia A. **REGION IV - LOS BAÑOS, LAGUNA:** COLLADO, Francisco Jr. L.; DADO, Ma. Victoria C.; DOMINGO, Richard T.; GARMA, Aileen S.; GITO, Emily SG.; IBANA, Juliett V.; LANUZA, Alfonso Jr. D.; LEE, Evelyn P.; ORENDAIN, Angelina M.; QUINTANO, Ireneo M.; SY, Cornelio A.; WAGAN, Ricardo Jr. F. **STO. TOMAS, BATANGAS:** ANDAL, Marie Lynn L.; CALINGASAN, Pio Jay S.; EXCHAURE, Nilo P.; GALVAN, Roland B.; GITO, Emily SG.; IBANA, Juliett V.; MATIRA, Rowena DC.; ORENDAIN, Angelina M.; PURISIMA, Willie G.; QUINTANO, Ireneo M.; VILLENA, Jean Marie B. **SAN JOSE, MINDORO OCCIDENTAL:** FABRERO, Julieto F.; MONSOD, Catherine M.; SY, Cornelio A.; TEJOSO, Cirilo Jr. Q. **STA. CRUZ, MINDORO OCCIDENTAL:** FABRERO, Julieto F.; MONSOD, Catherine M.; SY, Cornelio A.; TEJOSO, Cirilo Jr. Q.

MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT (MCTC): REGION I - BURGOS-MABINI, DASOL, PANGASINAN: DOCTOR, Joy Angelica S.; MUÑOZ, Mauro Jr. R.; PARAYNO, Ferdinand DV.; PULMANO, Edna Lou C.; **NATIVIDAD-SAN QUINTIN, PANGASINAN:** FLORES, Cristeta C.; GALVAN, Roland B.; MUÑOZ, Mauro Jr. R.; ORPILLA, Arleen R.; REYES, Remedios B.; SANCHEZ, Plotinus T.

The public may submit sworn complaint, written report, or opposition against any of the aforesaid applicants **not later than July 23, 2007** to the JBC Secretariat, 2nd Flr. Centennial Bldg., Supreme Court, Padre Faura St., Manila (Tel. No. 552-9512 Fax No. 552-9598); E-mail address: jbc_supremecourt@yahoo.com.ph).

All applicants for judicial positions must submit to the JBC ASAP via fax, mail or e-mail their updated JBC Form 1 (revised Oct. 2006) and proof of Filipino Citizenship.

July 10, 2007.

MA. LUISA D. VILLARAMA
Clerk of Court & JBC
Ex Officio Secretary

(PDI - July 12, 2007)

Memories, lessons of Payatas tragedy

LETTERS

LAST JULY 10, THE SEVENTH anniversary of the Payatas "garbage-slide" tragedy, we joined the survivors in remembering those who perished in that heartrending disaster that saw hundreds of women, men and children buried alive under a mountain of trash.

With the prayers we offered for the victims, we now issue another call for a stop to the detrimental practice of waste-dumping that persists to this day in Payatas and other communities.

We are pained to see that, notwithstanding the prohibition against open dumping and the legally imposed deadlines for the closure of open dumps (February 2004) and controlled dumps (February 2006), powerless communities continue to be used as dumping grounds for mixed discards and have to suffer the brunt of our wasteful habits.

The stream of proposals for so-called sanitary landfills startles us. It is as if landfills were safe, sustainable and socially acceptable; as if it were all right to throw away money that local authorities should be using to educate the youth, to shelter the homeless, to create jobs and to deliver health and other basic services to the poor.

We insist on, and vow to work for, the closure (long-delayed) of all dumps. We likewise call for multisectoral cooperation to solve our worsening waste problems. We demand solutions that prevent and reduce irresponsible disposal of wastes and toxic materials; and that provide humane, safe and secure alternative means of livelihood for waste-pickers.

We urge government entities and concerned financing agencies to rechannel the money slated for constructing landfills and "incinerators" to waste-prevention and -reduction/community-oriented zero waste systems and programs that seek to eliminate rather than bury or burn wastes. Let us draw inspiration, knowledge and energy from a growing number of communities and entities that are ecologically and creatively dealing with their discards.

The Payatas tragedy should remind our policymakers that dumping is not a safe and practical garbage disposal system; and that no community deserves to be poisoned or to be deprived of their birth right to a healthy environment.

We all owe it to the victims of Payatas to do everything in our power to prevent such a dreadful calamity from happening again in Payatas and elsewhere. We urge every home, school, church and community not to forget the lessons of Payatas and to commit to an ecological and sustainable lifestyle.

We invite the citizenry and the government to observe every 10th of July as zero-waste awareness and action day for environmental health and justice and a toxic-free future.

—MOST REV. BISHOP ANTONIO R. TOBIAS (Diocese of Novaliches), MOST REV. DINUALDO D. GUTIERREZ (Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines-National Secretariat for Social Action, Justice and Peace), CHARITO JOCSON PINALAS (Peace and Integrity of Creation Commission-Association of Major Religious Superiors of the Philippines), ROMY HIDALGO (EcoWaste Coalition),

No to conversion of zoo into coliseum

THERE IS A PROPOSAL TO CONVERT the Manila Zoo into a PBA (Philippine Basketball Association) coliseum.

During my stint at Manila's city council, there was also a project proposal to acquire and convert the zoo into a grand commercial complex that would incorporate into its system most of the zoo's facilities and features. The proposal died out.

There is no dispute that both the Manila Zoo and the PBA are institutions in their own right. Both, too, are patronized by the public.

To thoroughly weigh the merits and demerits or the pros and cons of this proposal, the city council should conduct public hearings, taking into consideration the costs, transfer site(s), economic benefits, or even the lobby(ies) involved.

—HUMBERTO B. BASCO, former councilor and majority leader, Basco, Lazaro Law Partnership (LTD), Suite 409 CCI Bldg., 1091 Natividad Almeda Lopez cor. San Marcelino Streets, Ermita, Manila

Hold election officials accountable

EVEN WITH MOST OF THE WINners proclaimed, the controversies surrounding the May 14 elections are far from over.

The 2007 polls again demonstrated a pattern of massive, deeply rooted, systematic fraud and an unacceptable level of violence rivaling previous elections. It could have been worse but for the efforts of a vigilant citizenry, the mass media and various poll watchdog groups.

Watchdog groups have gathered vital documentary and testimonial evidence of vote-shaving, vote-padding, vote-buying, disenfranchisement and fabricated election documents, all of which constitute the serious offense now known as electoral sabotage.

What is alarming to many is that in the worst examples of fraud, violence and disenfranchisement, the intended beneficiaries were administration candidates. What is arguably the single most glaring example of systematic and wholesale cheating is the "result" of the elections in Maguindanao: statistically improbable zero votes were recorded for non-administration senatorial candidates in the provincial certificate of canvass amid serious allegations of disenfranchisement and fabrication of election documents.

The tainted May 2007 elections have inevitably revived the issue of fraud in the 2004 elections. The personalities implicated in the alleged fraud in the 2007 polls are the same as those being implicated in the alleged cheating in the 2004 polls. These issues will continue to hound President Macapagal-Arroyo until they are justly resolved.

As a people, we cannot simply move on and close this chapter in our nation's history, not when the issues of alleged fraud remain unresolved. There can be no moving on if there is no accountability. There can be no serious electoral reforms when cheats, especially those using their government positions, are not brought to justice.

The current and former top officials of the Comelec, especially those who have already been implicated in the Garcillano scandal, must be made accountable for the tainted outcome of the 2007 elections. A case in point is the Comelec's inaction over Maguindanao election supervisor Lintang Bedol and his conspirators over the past three years. Its kid-gloves treatment of Bedol today demonstrates both the Comelec's inutility and its culpability in this year's scandalously fraudulent, anomalous and violence-ridden polls.

For starters, an impartial and thoroughgoing investigation must be initiated in the Senate, if legislated electoral reforms are to have any substance and meaning. The end goal must be to charge the sponsors and "operators" of election cheating, then and now.

The electorate deserves nothing less than the accountability, first and foremost, of its election officials.

—TEOFISTO GUINGONA JR., former vice president; JOSIE LICHAUCO, Bangon, BETTINA LEGARDA, Concerned Citizens; FR. JOE DIZON, Kontra Daya spokesperson; COMMODORE ISRAEL APPARI (ret.), Bantay Boto ng Bayan; DR, CAROL ARAULLO, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Department of Agriculture

Gawad Saka 2007

Search for Outstanding farmers & fisherfolk then & now....

Gawad SAKA has its roots in 1970, when the Department of Agriculture, through the National Food and Agriculture Council (NFAC), in cooperation with the Philippine Jaycees, first launched the *Search for the Outstanding Farmers of the Year (OFY)*. In 1971, the Search for Outstanding Farmers of the Year or OFY covered eight categories namely: rice, corn, fruit and vegetables, sorghum, fish, and poultry. In 1973, the Masagana 99 Rice Program was launched. This program greatly influenced the search such that in 1974 and 1975 only the rice and corn categories were included with great emphasis on rice production.

In 1976, from an exclusively rice and corn production Contest, the OFY was expanded to include sorghum, swine, cattle fattening, poultry, and tobacco. In 1977, when the country achieved self-sufficiency in rice, the OFY was opened to ten (10) categories namely: rice, corn, sorghum, Virginia tobacco, native tobacco, rabbit, quail, swine, cattle, and chicken egg. The following year, quail and rabbit were dropped and only eight categories remained until 1979.

As average landholdings diminished with increasing population, the farmers gradually shifted from mono-crop to multi-cropping systems. Simultaneous with this trend are researches on alternative sources of non-oil based agricultural inputs, such that a special award for azolla utilization was initiated in 1981. In 1982-83, additional categories such as mixed cropping and cotton, were included.

Beginning 1987, the Search has become a full blown endeavor. It included categories for farmers adopting integrated farming system; fisheries (capture and aquaculture); farm family; young farmer/ young farmer organization; small farmers/ fisherfolk organization; Rural Improvement Club; Agricultural and Fishery Councils (PAFC and MAFC) and Agricultural Scientist. The categories was also expanded to include DA Employees (Support, Planning, Research, Provincial Agricultural Officer, Municipal Agricultural Officer, and Agricultural Extension Worker). In March 21, 1989, President Corazon C. Aquino, the first Filipino woman head of state, declared the month of May of every year as "Farmers' and Fishermen's Month". The Department of Agriculture hosted the 1st ASEAN Farmers Week held on May 21-27, 1989. About 35 delegate-farmers from Darussalam Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore joined the Year 1989 Filipino Outstanding Farmers in the celebration. The occasion served as forum for farmers' exchanges of agri-technology . In 1991, a new design for the trophy was adopted to symbolize the transformation of farmers and fisherfolk from traditional producers of food and raw materials into entrepreneurs and key players as the country moves toward agro-industrialization. The PINAKA Contest was made an adjunct of the Search. PINAKA recognized the producers of outstanding crops and livestock. Their outstanding products were documented or collected to form a gene pool from which the materials for research towards the improvement of the local plant and animal stock were obtained.

In 1994, The Search was renamed *Gawad SAKA: Parangal sa Mga Natatanging Magsasaka at Mangingisda*. In 1997, seven members of the National Technical Committee for the Outstanding Farmer category perished in a hotel fire in Cotabato City. Beginning 1998, integrated farming, as a contest category, revolved around a single dominant crop. Rice-based and corn-based integrated farming replaced integrated farming as a category.

In 1999, the categories were again expanded to include the Search for Outstanding Coconut Farmer. In 2001 the Search for Outstanding Sugar Farmer was made part of the Gawad SAKA. In line with the government's policy on food security, the ante for higher yields was raised. Productivity was evaluated based on farmers or fisherfolk's adoption of high yielding hybrid. The criteria for rice category included the adoption of hybrid rice. As President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo took the reins of government, farmer and fisherfolk enterprises are evaluated along President Arroyo's growth targets and priorities and the DA's Five Pillar projects

This year the DA will once again honor outstanding Filipino farmers and fisherfolk who have made significant contributions to the sustainable growth of the farm sector through this year's Gawad SAKA awards.

DA Secretary Arthur C. Yap said Gawad SAKA 2007 aims to showcase the achievements of small farmers and fishermen who have boosted their yields or harvest through the use of modern technologies.

"Through Gawad SAKA, we can document success stories in the field of agriculture and fisheries and give due recognition to the dedicated individuals and institutions behind these accomplishments," Yap said.

Covering 22 individual awards categories and five group awards, this search for outstanding achievers in the field of agriculture and fisheries is a yearly undertaking of the DA in cooperation with other governement institutions, non-government offices and the private sector.

Outstanding individual achievers will receive P100,000 in cash prize while outstanding groups will receive P150,000 in project grants. They will also receive a presidential trophy and a presidential citation. Individual awardees with special citation will receive P30,000 in cash prize while distinguished agri organizations will receive P75,000 in project grants.

Yap said the challenge that confronts Philippine agriculture today is how to address its growth beyond 'modest' rates and into a sustained pace---at least a yearly average of about 5%-6% for the next decade---that can be felt by our rural folk in terms of better living standards for their families."

This goal is in step, he said, with President Arroyo's "8 by '08" agenda of social payback to the people, which includes mitigating hunger, pulling down the cost of living, and generating more jobs and investments, especially in the countryside.

MESSAGES

Malacañan Palace
Manila

Lubos akong bumabati sa Kagawaran ng Pagsasaka sa taunan ninyong pagpaparangal sa mga natatanging magsasaka at mangingisda ng bansa.

Makakamit lamang ang pag-unlad ng ating bansa sa pamamagitan ng sama-samang pagkilos at pagbibigay suporta sa isa't-isa na naglalayong higit na mapagbuti ang kabuhayan sa mga kanayunan.

Ang GAWAD SAKA ay patuloy na nagbibigay parangal sa mga taong nagsisilbing kaagapay natin tungo sa mas maunlad na bayan. Maituturing na itong isang institusyon na kumikilala sa kahusayan ng mga indibidwal at organisasyon sa larangan ng agrikultura na katulong ng pamahalaan sa pagkilos nito.

Ang pagkilala sa kanilang mga pagsisikap at sa patuloy na pagsusulong ng pagsasaka at pangingisda ay marapat lamang dahil sila ay nagsisilbing haligi ng ating pambansang ekonomiya at pag-unlad.

Sa unang bahagi ng taong ito, umangat ng mahigit sa tatlong porsiyento ang produksiyon ng sektor ng agrikultura dahil sa mga pagsusumikap ng ating mga kababayang nagbabata sa ilalim ng init ng araw. Tunay ngang ang kanilang tagumpay ay tagumpay nating lahat.

Sa lahat ng ating mga matagumpay na katuwang sa kabukiran at pangisdaan, kami po ay sumasaludo sa inyo.

Maraming salamat at Mabuhay!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

KAGAWARAN NG PAGSASAKA

Isang taos pusong pagpupugay sa mga tunay na bayani ng ating ekonomiya. Sa lumipas na mga taon patuloy ang paglago ng ating kabuhayan, at malaki ang ginampanang papel ng ating mga magsasaka at mangingisda sa pagsulong na ito. Kaya nga po walang humpay ang pagsusumikap ng Pamahalaan upang higit na mapalago ang agrikultura - ang sektor ng ekonomiya na nagbibigay ng hanapbuhay sa apat sa bawa't sampung Pilipino.

Layon ng mga proyektong inilunsad ng Kagawaran ng Pagsasaka na higit pang maiangat ang antas ng pamumuhay ng ating mga kababayan sa kanayunan. Nagtatag po tayo ng mga kalakalan at bagsakan centers kung saan pwedeng itinda ng mga magsasaka at mangingisda ang kanilang produkto: Malaki na ang kita, nakakatulong pa na pababain ang presyo ng pangunahin bilihin para sa ating mga kababayan. Naglalagay din po tayo ng mga post-harvest facilities upang mabawasan ang mga natatapong ani at higit na mapakinabangan ng ating mga magsasaka ang bunga ng kanilang pagsisikap.

Ngayong taon, muli nating bibigyan ng parangal ang mga natatanging magsasaka, mangingisda at mga samahan bilang pagkilala sa kanilang mga nagawa, nawa'y magsilbi silang tunay na huwaran.

Nagpapasalamat ako at ang buong Kagawaran ng Pagsasaka sa lahat ng mga magsasaka at mangingisda ng bansa. Tunay na kapuri-puri kayo sa inyong larangan.

Sa lahat ng GAWAD SAKA Outstanding Farmers at Fisherfolk para sa taong ito, hangad namin ang inyong patuloy na tagumpay.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

ARTHUR C. YAP
Kalihim

Malugod akong bumabati sa ating mga natatanging magsasaka at mangingisda ng taon.

Sandigan ng ating bayan ang sektor ng agrikultura na pinagkukunang ng masaganang kabuhayan ng ating bansa. Kaya naman patuloy na pinagbubuti ng pamahalaan ang mga programang magdudulot ng mas moderno at maunlad na sektor ng pagsasaka at pangingisda.

Sa pagdaan ng mga taon, di lamang makabagong makinarya o mataas na uring binhi ang nagdudulot ng mataas na ani para sa ating mga kababayan kundi ang mga katangi-tanging kakayahan ng ating mga magsasaka at mangingisda na walang sawang naghihirap sa mga sakahan at pangisdaan.

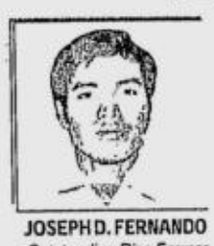
Ngayon higit kailanman, marapat na bigyan natin ng karangalan ang mga taong patuloy na nagpapakahirap para sa ika-uunlad ng kabuhayan di lamang sa kanayunan kundi sa buong bayan. Ang kanilang pagiging huwaran ay nagsisilbing inspirasyon at pag-asa nating lahat.

Muli ang aking pagbati.

Mabuhay po kayo!

DENNIS B. ARAULLO
Assistant Secretary & Chairperson,
GAWAD SAKA 2007

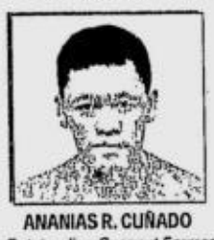
2007 AGRI -AQUA ACHIEVERS



JOSEPH D. FERNANDO
Outstanding Rice Farmer
Naganakan, Cauayan, Isabela

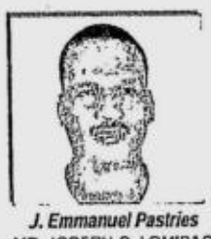
DEMETRIO E. TABELON
Outstanding Corn Farmer
Tiniwisan, Butuan City
Agusan del Norte

NESTOR T. BAUTISTA
Outstanding Sugarcane Farmer
Lakambini, Tuao, Cagayan



ANANIAS R. CUÑADO
Outstanding Coconut Farmer
New Bataan, Compostela Valley

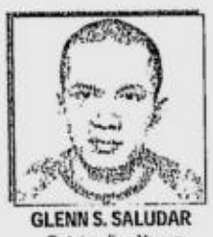
HEHERSON M. PAGULAYAN
Outstanding HVCC Farmer
Centro San Antonio, Ilagan, Isabela



J. Emmanuel Pastries
MR. JOSEPH G. LOMIBAO
Outstanding HVCC Processor
Camarines Sur

PETER L. UY
Outstanding Fisherfolk
(Fish Culture)
Campuyo, Manjuyod, Oriental Negros

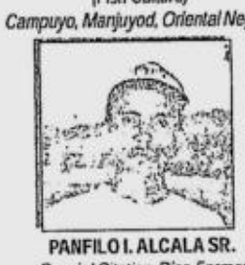
ARTURO A. MARCAIDA, JR.
Outstanding Fisherfolk
(Fish Capture)
Pena, Cawayan, Masbate



GLENN S. SALUDAR
Outstanding Young
Farmer/Fisherfolk
Balud, Sta. Margarita, Samar

ARTURO D. PASACAS & Family
Outstanding Farmer/Fisherfolk Family
Calbayog Samar

ERLINDA P. RILLO
Outstanding Agricultural Scientist
Philippine Coconut Authority, Albay



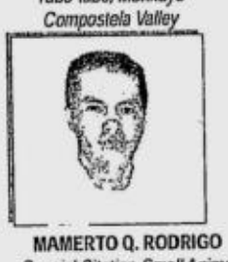
PANFILO I. ALCALA SR.
Special Citation-Rice Farmer
Tubo-tubo, Monkayo
Compostela Valley

SUSAN A. LAO
Special Citation-Corn Farmer
Biao Escuela, Tugbok
District, Davao City

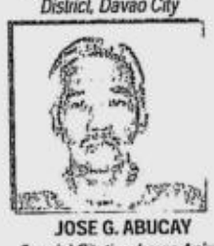
JOSE P. PAJARILLO
Special Citation-Coconut Farmer
Candon City, Ilocos Sur

JULIA DC. FRANCISCO
Special Citation-HVCC Farmer
Basuit, San Ildefonso, Bulacan

HERBAKH INDUSTRIES
Alex U Khong Hun
Special Citation-HVCC Processor
Balitagan, Ilagan, Isabela



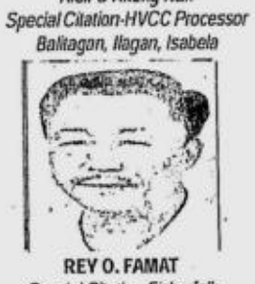
MAMERTO Q. RODRIGO
Special Citation-Small Animal
Raiser
Malingin, Daanbantayan, Cebu



JOSE G. ABUCAY
Special Citation-Large Animal
Raiser
48-A, Laoag City, Ilocos Norte

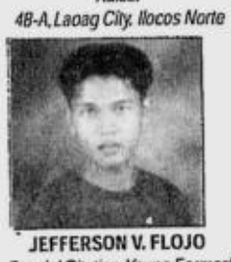
GLENN B. CALLEJA
Special Citation-Fisherfolk
(Fish Culture)
Pili, Ilawod, Bacacay, Albay

JOSE ILDEFONSO B. COSTALES
Special Citation-Fisherfolk
(Fish Culture)
Salvador, Santiago City, Isabela

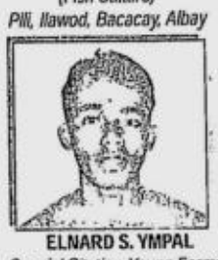


REY O. FAMAT
Special Citation-Fisherfolk
(Fish Culture)
Tugbungan, Zamboanga City

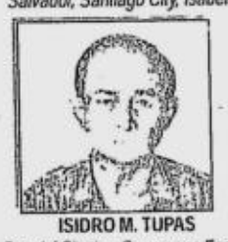
ARSENIO L. DELA PEÑA
Special Citation-Fisherfolk
(Fish Capture)
Taggat Norte, Claveria, Cagayan



JEFFERSON V. FLOJO
Special Citation-Young Farmer/
Fisherfolk
San Manuel, Sarrat, Ilocos Norte

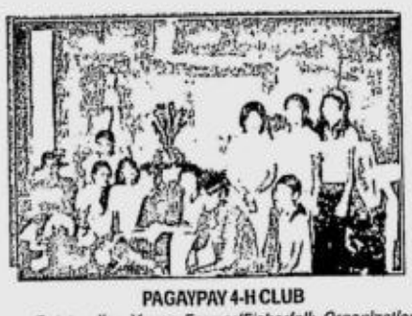


ELNARD S. YMPAL
Special Citation-Young Farmer/
Fisherfolk
Cansayang, San Juan, Siquijor



ISIDRO M. TUPAS
Special Citation-Sugarcane Farmer
Bialong, M'lang, North Cotabato

SIMBALUCA 4-H CLUB
Outstanding Young Farmer/
Fisherfolk Organization
Simbaluca, Sta. Teresita, Cagayan



PAGAYPAY 4-H CLUB
Outstanding Young Farmer/Fisherfolk Organization,
Pagaypay, Passi City, Iloilo

MOTHER OF HOPE
Outstanding Rural Improvement Club
Pangantukan, Bukidnon

CLAVERIA FARMER'S
MULTI-PURPOSE COOP.
Outstanding Small Farmer/Fisherfolk Organization
Claveria, Cagayan

Tuguegarao City Agricultural
& Fishery Council
Outstanding Municipal/City
Agricultural & Fishery Council

BOHOL Provincial Agricultural
Fishery Council
Outstanding Provincial Agricultural & Fishery Council

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
2nd Floor, Los Baños Bldg.
Cor. Peñaranda and Aguinaldo Sts.
Legazpi City
Telefax No. (052) 480-4182
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/regions

Across the NATION

Text us your feedback: inquirer atn name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

Sorsogon suffers ₱41M in red tide losses

SORSOGON CITY—FISHERMEN here have already lost at least P41 million in potential income due to the continued presence of red tide at the Sorsogon Bay for more than a year now, an official of the Provincial Agriculture Office (PAO) said in a meeting of the Provincial Red Tide Monitoring Task Force (PRTMTF) Tuesday.

Sharon Escoto, head of the PAO's Red Tide Laboratory Office, said the figure was a conservative estimate because it represented only losses in Sorsogon City and Casiguran town.

Aside from these two areas, the bay also covers the towns of Juban, Magallanes, Castilla and Pilar.

The gathering of shell fish at the Sorsogon Bay has been banned by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) since October 2005 following the deaths of at least 13 persons who ate red tide-contaminated seashells.

Escoto said red tide organisms continued to proliferate at the bay based on the latest result of laboratory tests conducted by the BFAR.

Serafin Lacdang, chief of the agriculture office's fishery section, said monitoring of red tide was greatly hampered by the lack of support from local officials.

More than a thousand fishermen, whose income depended largely on shellfish farming, had long been complaining to past local administrations but their pleas for help went unheeded.

The report prompted Gov. Sally Lee and Sorsogon City Mayor Leovic Dioneda to come up with a memorandum of agreement that would assign specific tasks to various stakeholders.

Dioneda said the city government would allocate funds for livelihood assistance to fishermen through the Self-Employment Assistance Program.

He also assured the PRTMTF of the city government's help in its tasks, especially in monitoring.

He urged the provincial government to expedite the formulation of the MOA so that steps could be immediately taken to cushion the effects of the red tide and to enable the task force to properly do its work.

The Provincial Agriculture and Fishery Council reiterated its request to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to conduct a scientific investigation on the cause of red tide in the bay.

Some members of the task force also urged the Environmental Management Bureau to investigate fastfood chains and other establishments in the city that dump wastes into rivers and the bay, in violation of their environmental compliance certificates (ECC).

Bobby Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
GOLDZ MANPOWER & MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC. 1841 A.P. Hidalgo Lim St., Malate, Manila	Srinivas Rao Pulavarti	SAP Basis Support Consultant
GOLDZ MANPOWER & MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC. 1841 A.P. Hidalgo Lim St., Malate, Manila	Venkata Giri Prasad Mudra	SAP Basis Support Consultant
GOLDZ MANPOWER & MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC. 1841 A.P. Hidalgo Lim St., Malate, Manila	Subramanyeswar Kommuri	SAP Basis Support Consultant
GOLDZ MANPOWER & MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC. 1841 A.P. Hidalgo Lim St., Malate, Manila	Tejkumar Ravuri	SAP Basis Support Consultant
GOLDZ MANPOWER & MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC. 1841 A.P. Hidalgo Lim St., Malate, Manila	Anil Kumar Yaramati	SAP Basis Support Consultant
GOLDZ MANPOWER & MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC. 1841 A.P. Hidalgo Lim St., Malate, Manila	Vijaya Babu Mulakala	SAP Basis Support Consultant
BEYOND TRADING & SHOPPERS PHILS., CORP. Unit N1 BLue Wave, Macapagal Ave., Pasay City	Ji Hyun Kang	Asst. Marketing Manager
MHI TECHNICAL SERVICES CORP. 25/F BPI Buendia Center, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Noburo Sasaki	Technical Supervisor
UNITED PHILIPPINES DRILLING CO., INC. Unit 818 Pioneer Highlands South Condominium, Pioneer cor. Madison Sts., Mandaluyong City	Christopher John Sinclair	Drilling Supervisor
GOLDZ MANPOWER & MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC. 1841 A.P. Hidalgo Lim St., Malate, Manila	Bandhavi Rajyalakshmi Nailani Chakravarthula	SAP Basis Support Consultant
AMUSE TECHNOLOGY INC. 1203 Global Tower, Masacardo St., Bangkal, Makati City	Wen Chieh Lin a.k.a. Joseph Lin	Vice President
ROYAL PHILIPPINES RESTAURANT 1729 LM Guerrero St., Malate, Manila	Myung Hwan Oh	Manager
JANGWON BAR & RESTAURANT 605 Remedios St., Malate, Manila	Soon Ok Kim (wife of An)	Chef
GUNYOUNG GROUP OF COMPANIES, INC. 2/F Aguirre Bldg., 108 Tordesillas St. cor. H.V. dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Na Rae Lee	Marketing Consultant
KAIKWONG INTERNATIONAL BUILDERS CO., INC. No. 11 U-E G/F Freemont Arcade, Shaw Blvd., San Antonio, Pasig City	Ka Po Tse	Project Supervisor
KAIKWONG INTERNATIONAL BUILDERS CO., INC. No. 11 U-E G/F Freemont Arcade, Shaw Blvd., San Antonio, Pasig City	Kwong Sing Ma	Project Manager
ALPS BRAKE CORP. 1003 Armstrong St., MultiNational Village, Moonwalk, Paranaque City	Ji Yun Yoon	Consultant
KAJIMA PHILIPPINES INC. 12/F 6788 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Fusaaki Kato	Executive Vice President
KAJIMA PHILIPPINES INC. 12/F 6788 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Kazuyuki Ichikawa	Project Director
QINTERACTION PHILIPPINES, INC. 8-9/F BPI Buendia Center, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Jason Lawrence Quental	General Manager
TNKC (MANILA) CORPORATION 16/F Marc 2000 Tower, 1973 Taft Ave., Malate, Manila	Zhongsheng Bi	Engineer Superintendent
KOREAN HANSHIK RESTAURANT 5354 Gen. Luna St., Bgy. Poblacion, Makati City	Younghee Lee (wife of LEE)	Liaison Officer
PHILIPPINE PLAZA HOLDINGS, INC. (SOFITEL PHILIPPINE PLAZA) CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City	Om Prakash Giri	Indian Chef
YEO HAENG NARA TRAVEL AND TOURS G/F Unit D ALBA Bldg. 7A Gil Puyat St. cor. Presidents Ave., BF Homes P'que. City	Hyun Joo Kim (w/o Lee)	General Manager

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

ISABEL G. PANGANIBAN-ORTIGUERRA
Acting Regional Director

The DOLE conducts free seminar on Labor-Human Relations and Productivity.
For more information, please call 339-2013 & 303-5920.

(PDI – July 12, 2007)

Comelec sets new list-up for village polls

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—THE COMmission on Elections in Eastern Visayas is now ready for the registration of new voters for the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections set on Oct. 29.

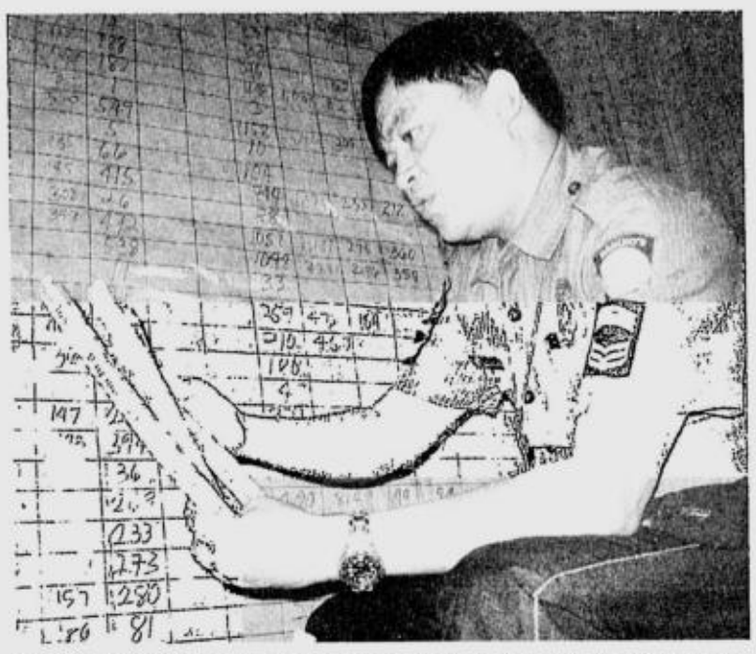
Richard Japzon, regional elections legal officer, has issued an appeal to those who would want to register to do so early.

"They have one week to register but we appeal to them not to wait for the deadline. Otherwise, they might find themselves not getting registered," he said.

For the village elections, those eligible to register were asked to register at their local Comelec offices starting on July 15 until July 22.

The Comelec offices would be open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. for the registration, Japzon said.

Eligible to register are those who are 18 years old before or upon the day of the elections and are residents of the place for six months.



A POLICEMAN guards the counting of votes in the last elections. Law enforcers are likely to perform the same tasks again in October, when elections for village officials are held. VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Those who would cast their votes for the SK polls should be 15 years old or less than 18 years old before the conduct of the Oct. 29 elections.

Registrants for the barangay and SK elections are required to present valid documents, such as a personal ID card. In the absence of such legal document, the registrant must be accompanied by a prominent village resident to vouch that he is a resident of the village where he desires to register.

Registered voters

During the 2002 barangay and SK elections, 1.89 million registered voters in Eastern Visayas went out to vote for their village officials, composed of one chairman and eight councilmen. For the SK elections, some 153,753 registered voters also cast their votes that year.

The region now has over 2 million registered voters and the number was expected to rise with new voters joining next week's list up, Japzon said.

Japzon said the barangay elections is now final, with the Comelec *en banc* passing Resolution No. 82178 last July 9 setting the guidelines for the October political exercise.

Transco seen preparing for auction

BAGUIO CITY—THE NATIONAL Transmission Corp. (Transco) has slowed investments meant for repairing or upgrading its aging power lines in Northern Luzon, which explains the intermittent blackouts affecting the summer capital since May, a local power company said here on Wednesday.

At a press conference, Gerardo Versoza, general manager of Benguet Electric Cooperative (Beneco), said it has taken Transco three years to even survey a main distribution line that is located too close to houses in Baguio.

Sections of this major power line are a few feet from rooftops along the busy Magsaysay Avenue, which connects the city to La Trinidad town in Benguet, he said.

Versoza said this is a critical power line for Transco because it can trigger a citywide blackout if it was inadvertently cut.

"Safety has been compromised," he said, adding that Transco never responded as quickly as it should have.

He said this inattention convinced Beneco that Transco is cutting expenditures in anticipation of Transco's prescheduled auction in December.

The 2001 Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira law) requires full industry deregulation, and compels the government to auction all of its power related assets, including Transco's national transmission grid.

Epira also requires government to sell state-owned power generating facilities, such as the deteriorated Binga and Ambuclao hydroelectric power plants in Benguet.

Beneco official said Transco was also liable for a blackout in the city and parts of Benguet towns on May 25 when it transferred a Beneco distribution line without its permission.

Speaking for Transco, Federico Gadon, an engineer of the firm's La Union office, said the pace of its repair and upgrade projects in Luzon are "normal," and should not be a cause for worry.

He said a survey is being prepared to address the Magsaysay Avenue power line's vulnerability.

"We could have repaired that already but we were obstructed by the people who live nearby. They prevent us from correcting the problem. They have sued us because they claim right of way there," Gadon said.

But the Transco official said he was not authorized to confirm or deny Beneco's claims that repair investments had been cut. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Davao cops kill 4 kidnap suspects

DAVAO CITY—FOUR SUSPECTED members of a local kidnap-for-ransom gang were killed in a gunfight with police and agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) in Buhangin District here on Tuesday afternoon.

But Senior Supt. Jaime Morente, city police director, said the kidnap victim, businessman Edgar Baroso, was unscathed during the exchange of gunfire between the suspects and the raiding team around 5:30 p.m.

Morente said Baroso was kidnapped from his gas station in Barangay Tibungco in Sasa District here on Sunday afternoon.

He said a staffer of Baroso called up 911, which in turn informed authorities about the kidnapping.

"We decided to keep it under wraps so that the operation would not be jeopardized," he said. *Dennis Jay Santos, Inquirer Mindanao*

GMA adviser says SCTEx extension OKd

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CLARK FREEPORT—THE JAPANese contractor building the Bataan-Pampanga portion of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway has asked the Bases Conversion Development Authority to give it four months more, or until March 2008, to finish that part of the P21-billion national flagship project.

BCDA president Narciso Abaya on Wednesday confirmed the request of the Kajima-Obayashi-JFE Engineering-Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (KOJM) Joint Venture.

The request was the third that KOJM has made since April when it reported incurring 2,408 days of delay due to right-of-way problems.

The BCDA board has not acted on the two previous requests. The first sought a 383-day extension and the second, six months.

Abaya said the board will act on the third request after KOJM has submitted a detailed work schedule, which will be evaluated by the project's international consulting firms.

"(KOJM) is still preparing it. We want an honest-to-goodness work schedule so (KOJM) can really finish it on time," Abaya said in a phone interview.

Earlier, Edgardo Pamintuan, chief of the Subic-Clark Alliance Development Council and a presidential adviser, said KOJM has been allowed to complete the section until March 2008.

Pamintuan said the extension was agreed upon in his meeting with BCDA Chair Aloysius Santos and Abaya.

He said the construction work during the extended period come at "no additional cost to the government."

KOJM, Abaya said, has brought down to 12 percent its slippage or the delay in work schedule on the 50-km portion of the 94-km toll road traversing the western mountainous boundary of Central Luzon.

KOJM representative Masato Otsubo declined to issue any statement as the negotiation resumed on Monday.

Based on the original contract, KOJM should have finished the road project by November this year.

KOJM complained of unresolved right-of-way cases as the main reason for the delay in its work.

The right-of-way refers to the lands on which the road will be built. The acquisition of lands was the Philippine government's counterpart in the loan it obtained from the Japanese government.

BCDA officials had asserted that the agency delivered its obligation, tracing the delay instead to the lack of heavy equipment by the contractors and its Filipino sub-contractors.

Pamintuan had noted slow responses on the part of several government agencies and local governments.

Malacañang has intervened on the delay issue, taking the matter as far up as the Cabinet-level since May.

The SCTEx links the Subic and Clark freeports to boost their potentials as "Southeast Asia's best logistics hub," according to the vision set by President Macapagal-Arroyo in her State of the Nation Address in 2004.

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/regions
Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS/LORY TAN/WWF

THE MOUNTAINS of Palawan have attracted various mining companies, among them the Platinum Group Metals Corp. which has this nickel ore mining site in Narra town. The PGMC was stripped last year of its Environmental Clearance Certificate by the DENR for overextraction.

An antimining voice in promining chorus

By Redempto Anda
Puerto Princesa City

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HER LIFE, MAVERICK LAWYER AND ANTIMINING activist Jean Feliciano banged the gavel on July 3 as the new vice mayor of Brooke's Point in Palawan and presiding officer of its legislative council.

The agenda for the council's inaugural session was, by tradition, nothing more than parliamentary niceties.

In the next few weeks, however, Feliciano and her peers will buckle down to tackle a highly charged debate on allowing two major nickel mining companies to operate in Brooke's Point.

"It's like the most impossible job in the world, but I'm here to fulfill a mandate," Feliciano said after taking her oath of office on June 30.

Thrust into public office by a simple majority of the municipality's antimining constituency, she ironically found herself as the lone voice in a chorus of a promining body politic.

VICE Mayor Jean Feliciano of Brooke's Point, Palawan

Feliciano had been prodded by nongovernment organizations and mining site communities to join the political fray. She fought a closely contested fight for vice mayor, winning over the three-term mayor by just over 200 votes.

"Her victory shows that there is a strong sentiment in the communities against mining and other extractive forms of development," said Cleofe Bernardino, executive director of the Palawan NGO Network which supported Feliciano's candidacy.

Her upset win was a major victory for an emerging antimining lobby in a province that hosts some of the country's biggest nickel ore mining operations and nearly a hundred other mining venture applications.

Feliciano credits her victory to the support of tribal villagers where the mining projects are located and in the poblacion "where voters are generally more attuned to the issue of mining."

Green Vote

A practicing private lawyer in the otherwise sleepy town of Brooke's Point, Feliciano was at first reluctant to take on the mining companies planning to operate in the nickel-and-chromite-rich region of southern Palawan.

She had come back to Brooke's Point after 12 years of working overseas and was determined to pursue a childhood dream to become a judge.

"I have already begun to fill up my application and had spoken to several individuals who were to endorse my application until I got sidetracked into this advocacy," she said.

"I saw how blatantly accommodating (to the mining companies) the national government has been to MacroAsia and I saw the plight of the affected indigenous communities."

Feliciano claimed that when MacroAsia got its mineral production sharing agreement (MPSA) in December last year from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, the agency attached to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in charge of issuing permits, the municipality was caught off guard.

"They (MacroAsia officials) haven't even conducted community consultations to see if there is local acceptability as required by the Mining Code," Feliciano said.

MacroAsia, Atlas

MacroAsia, the flagship company of airline and cigarette magnate Lucio Tan, and Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp. are set to start full scale operations in Brooke's Point. Both companies are making a big push into the dollar-rich nickel ore business as they ride the tide of the national government's open arms policy and the favorable world demand for nickel.

MacroAsia has secured two MPSAs from the MGB allowing it to conduct exploratory activities, a permit which Feliciano claimed was defective.

Celestial Nickel Mining Exploration, a satellite company of Atlas Consolidated, has an MPSA issued in 1993 covering close to 3,000 hectares in the neighboring municipality of Quezon.

Feliciano vowed "transparency and strict observance of the law" in the municipality's dealings with mining companies, and that "the true sentiments of the communities that will be affected by the project [will] be taken into account."

Protect-Sierra Madre call reaches the US

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Lucena City

A CATHOLIC PRIEST'S CALL TO PROTECT THE Sierra Madre mountain ranges has been heard, even as far as the United States.

In March, Fr. Pete Montallana, head of the church-based environmentalist group Task Force Sierra Madre (TFSM) in northern Quezon appealed for assistance in protecting the remaining virgin forests in Luzon.

"We know that the work to save Sierra Madre from greed is also in your hearts. We need to join hands. Participate in our work by volunteering your time and talent and/or by pledging an amount to sustain our initiatives," Montallana wrote in his letter.

The letter was posted in the website of the Metro Infanta Foundation (MIF), a Filipino-run nonprofit organization based in Colorado, USA, by its president, Mila Glodava.

Thank-you letter

On July 5, the website showed Montallana's thank-you letter to Fr. Andrew Kemberling, parish priest of St. Thomas Moore Church in Centennial, Colorado, after the parish donated $1,000. Much of the money, the Filipino priest said, will be used for the TFSM's information and educational campaign against the threat posed by a government dam project in the Sierra Madre River.

"Your help has given a lot of opportunity to print materials to inform people about the dam, to transport people who wanted to join the public consultations that we have organized, and to enable us to reach very far places to alert people about the dams," he told Kemberling.

The campaign will focus on the Laiban dam project of the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage System in Tanay, Rizal, which will be built in an area where geologic fault lines have been identified.

Then known as the Kaliwa-Kanan (Left-Right) rivers, the Laiban traverses the slopes of Sierra Madre and into the Pacific shoreline. During the Marcos regime, the dam project was proposed to be a part of the so-called industrial complex in northeastern Luzon.

Due to opposition by indigenous peoples, the project was shelved, leaving only two diversion tunnels as memories of the aborted project. But the Arroyo administration plans to resurrect it as a water source for Metro Manila.

Opposition

"We have now the advantage that the mayor of General Nakar and the reelected mayor of Infanta oppose the dam. The mayor of Tanay where the dam would be constructed also has taken the stance in favor of the people. However, it is not easy to oppose a project of the national government," Montallana said.

He expressed fear that the proposed dam in the mountain watershed would displace about 3,500 families, mostly upland farmers and indigenous peoples, in seven barangays in Tanay and another in General Nakar.

The resulting diminished water flow in the Agos River could affect navigation, irrigation and fisheries in the river and estuary, the priest said.

"[If] the dam breaks, a repeat of the destructive flood in 2004 can result in deaths and losses of property in General Nakar, Infanta and Real in Quezon," he said.

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel No. 893 1320, Local 5288

PNOC

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

2 Units BOP Handling System under FDM 73523-4
Approved Budget: PHP 17,948,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o Mr. Arvin Jose A. Gomez starting **July 11, 2007** and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP 2,000.00 per document

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **July 19, 2007, 10:00 a.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply Management Department at the above address, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m. (Supply Management Department Wall Clock Time) of August 1, 2007**. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee I

(PDI - July 12, 2007)

MANSMITH AND FIELDERS, INC.
August 2007 Course Offerings

18TH MARKETING AND SALES IMPLEMENTATION:
Excellence in Strategic Execution
(by Josiah Go), August 21-22, 2007

"We taught you how to fly, now learn how to land effectively!"
Josiah Go, Chairman and Chief Marketing Strategist, Mansmith and Fielders, Inc.

CONVERT YOUR MARKETING PLAN INTO OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE!

Other seminars:
7th Client-centric Selling
(by Rowen Untivero), August 2-3, 2007
3rd Sales Metrics: Strategic Measures to Evaluate Impact of Sales Activities
(by Emilio Macasaet III), August 2-3, 2007
21st Trade Marketing
(by Emilio Macasaet III), August 21-22, 2007
1st Fundamentals of Consumer Brand Management (NEW!)
(by Weena Pineda), August 23-24, 2007
5th / 6th Marketing on a Shoestring Budget
(by Josiah Go), August 15, 2007 (GMA), August 17, 2007 (Cebu)
1st Strategies and Secrets of Sales Achievers (NEW!)
(by Rowen Untivero), August 17, 2007 (Cebu)

For complete 2007 schedule of seminars, course outlines, fees, group discounts and other inquiries, please visit our website at www.mansmith.net, email info@mansmith.net, text 0918-81-168-88 or call Alice Torres at telefax nos. (02) 722-2318 / 727-7142.

MANSMITH
MANSMITH AND FIELDERS, INC.
Helping your marketing and sales teams soar!
#14 Ilang-ilang St., GF Waters Center, New Manila, Quezon City 1112

Strategic Learning Partner: ABENSON
Official Print Media Partners: BusinessWorld www.bworldonline.com, INQUIRER

"Gusto ko magaan ang presyo, pero mas bigatin ang offers."

Posible po! Mas lalong affordable na ang

Globe Prepaid SIM

~~₱99~~ **₱65** **na lang!**

May 50 free texts to all networks ka na, may free one day Unlitxt All Day Trial* ka pa!
Kaya mag-Globe na! At agad-agad mo pang ma-eenjoy ang mga SUPER SULIT OFFERS!

Sulitxt 15
₱15 for 100 texts / day (Globe to Globe)
Promo until July 14, 2007. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2880, Series of 2007

Unlitxt All Day 20
Text **UNLITXT20** to **2870**
₱20 for 24 hours Globe-to-Globe Unlimited Text
Promo until July 14, 2007. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1642, Series of 2007

₱0.10 Kada Segundo
Dial **232** + (10-digit Globe mobile number)

₱10 for 3 minutes (local calls)
Dial **235** + (10-digit Globe mobile number)

₱15 Load
Pinakamababa from Globe!
Pasok sa baon, kaya ayt ang buhay teenager.

Tipid IDD
Tawag abroad for as low as ₱0.17 kada segundo.
Dial 12800 (Country Code)
(Area Code) (Phone Number)
Text **Tipid IDD** to **2929** for more info

*Within 24-72 hours upon the first minimum load of ₱15. Unlitxt All Day Trial promo period is from July 1 to September 30, 2007.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2636, Series of 2007

Globe SIM Promo is from July 1 - 31, 2007
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2992, Series of 2007

dude, ang lakas mo sa Globe™

A plus METRO
Website: www.inquirer.net/metro
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil
Text us your feedback: Inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

GMA 7 asks CA to void TRO

'Imbestigador' episode 'humiliating,' says subject

By Julie M. Aurelio

TELEVISION NETWORK GMA 7 HAS ASKED THE COURT OF APpeals to nullify the temporary restraining order issued by a Pasay regional trial court which prevents it from airing an episode of the news and public affairs program, "Imbestigador."

The episode, which is also the subject of a preliminary injunction, shows the police arresting a Pasay assistant prosecutor for alleged extortion last month.

"We are contesting the TRO and preliminary injunction and have elevated the matter to the Court to Appeals because we think that this constitutes direct and prior restraint on the exercise of free speech and expression and is therefore unconstitutional," lawyer Dick Perez, GMA 7's vice president for legal affairs, told the INQUIRER.

"We have the right and the duty to report and inform the public about the conduct of public officials in the performance of their functions," he added.

On June 16, Judge Francisco Mendiola of the Pasay City Regional Trial Court Branch 115 issued a TRO to stop the airing of the "Imbestigador" episode showing Pasay Assistant City Prosecutor John Imperial being arrested for alleged extortion.

According to Mendiola, the showing of the footage would subject Imperial to "public distrust, ridicule and humiliation."

The TRO was issued to "Imbestigador" hosts Mike Enriquez and the program's executive producer, Junie Castillo.

When the TRO expired three days later, the judge extended it by 17 more days and then issued a preliminary injunction when his order expired on July 6.

Imperial earlier filed a petition for preliminary injunction after he complained that the showing of the footage would expose him to ridicule and imply that he was guilty of extortion.

Imperial said the crew of the TV program filmed him as he was being arrested by members of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group of the Philippine National Police for allegedly extorting money from complainants June 2.

The prosecutor, who is facing an investigation at the Department of Justice for alleged extortion, pointed out that the police did not recover any money from him at the time of his arrest.

Marikina grade school studes No. 1 in reading tests

By Kristine L. Alave

MARIKINA CITY IS GIVING AN added boost to its learning enhancement program after its students in the third grade topped the recent reading proficiency tests administered in the National Capital Region.

In a statement, the city government said that Grade 3 pupils in its public schools garnered a mean percentage score of 79.76 in English and Filipino.

They were followed by students from Las Piñas City with a score of 63.63 and Makati City with 60.45. The cities of Navotas and Parañaque got the lowest scores, at 46.38 and 46.21, respectively.

The reading tests were administered by the National Education Testing and Research Center.

Marikina Mayor Marides Fernando credited the young students' performance in the examinations to "the city's relentless efforts in promoting reading comprehension and proficiency."

She cited specific programs

MARIKINA/A18

Eviction looms for railways folk

By Allison W. Lopez

SAY GOODBYE TO "HOMES ALONG DA RIles" in Manila. About 5,000 families living beside the railway tracks in Sta. Mesa, Pandacan and Sampaloc will be evicted in the next few weeks as the Philippine National Railways (PNR) begins its Southrail Rehabilitation Program (SRP).

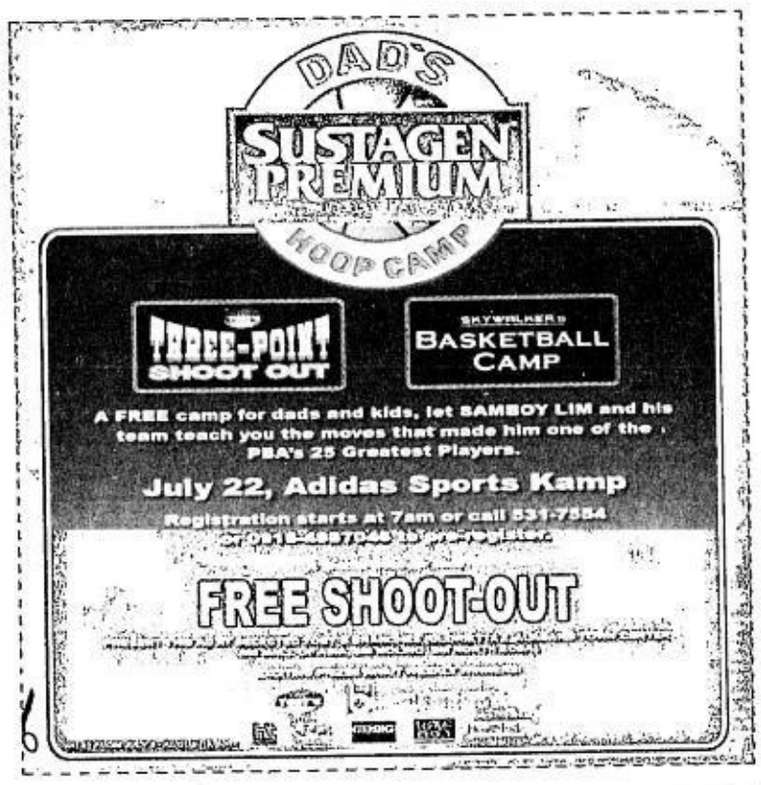
Some residents in Sampaloc yesterday claimed they were assured they could remain in the area, but Vice President Noli de Castro said they had no choice but to remove every structure within 15 meters of the tracks because the Korean contractor of the project had insisted on it.

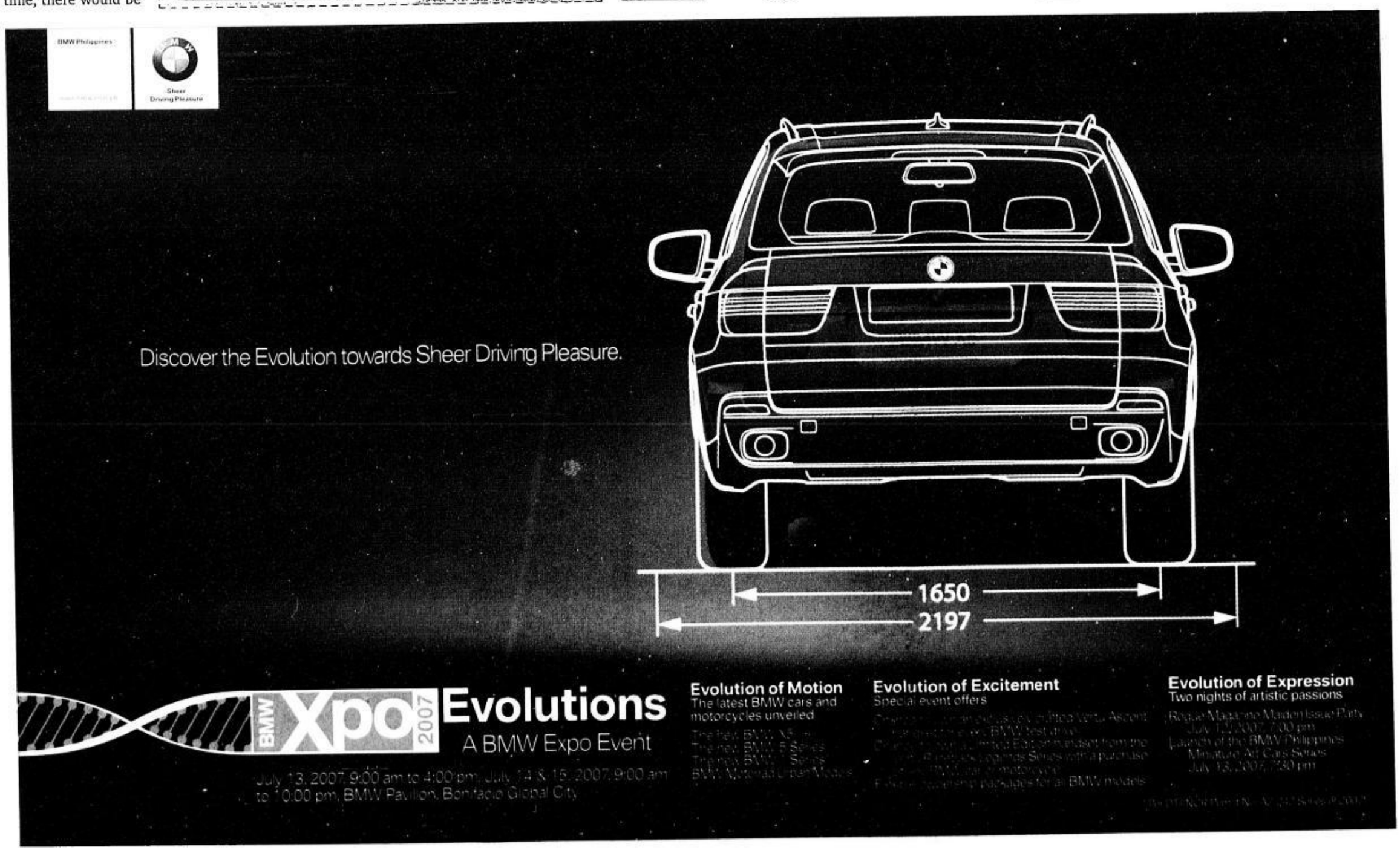
"Former officials asked us to stop the relocation, but this time, there would be no more postponement," De Castro said.

The Vice President, who is also chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinat-

EVICTION/A18

THURSDAY THRILLS LUNCH!
Fill your daily appetite with a hefty lunch schedule! Greenwich gives you lunch choices for a midday feast that's packed with your Greenwich favorites! There's always something delicious to discover everyday!
Plan the adventure for the coming weekend as you dive into a Big Time Meal! Hawaiian Pizza Bar, Meaty Spaghetti, 1pc. Crispy Fried Chicken with rice, softdrink, and a brownie.
bigtime meals
Meal D
P 109
Greenwich
Discover Delicious





Nene, bishop question soldiers' presence

By Gil Cabacungan, DJ Yap and Jerome Aning

SEN. AQUILINO PIMENTEL JR. has questioned Malacañang's decision to deploy military troops to urban centers allegedly in preparation for President Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address on July 23.

Pimentel yesterday raised doubts on whether or not Filipinos were welcoming with open arms the increased presence of soldiers in their neighborhood.

"For me, the deployment of the military is more worrisome because it is against the law. Soldiers should not be allowed to wander around the country," he told reporters.

His sentiment was shared by Bishop Honesto Ongtiongco who said the presence of local policemen and other law enforcers should be enough to safeguard against communist and terror threats.

"It's puzzling. I've been asking myself why is there a need to deploy soldiers," Ongtiongco said in an interview over Radio Veritas.

"I wonder if there's really a great need for their added presence since our mayors and our police and other law enforcers have been diligent in combating communism and terrorism," he added.

As far as the issue of peace and order is concerned, Ongtiongco said his Cubao diocese, which covers southern Quezon City, should be safe from any threat since the national military and police headquarters, Camps Aguinaldo and Crame, are located inside within the diocese.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines announced earlier the return of soldiers to communities in Quezon, Manila, Caloocan and Taguig cities to carry out civil work.

There is one place, however, where they would not be welcome: Makati City.

Barangay leaders of the financial capital took issue with the deployment of armed troops to the metropolis, saying peacekeeping in the communities remains the responsibility of the police and the local governments.

Rodolfo Sese, head of the city's Liga ng mga Barangay and barangay chair of Guadalupe Nuevo, said in a statement that the presence of troops would only cause undue alarm among city residents and visitors.

"The barangay leaders of Makati believe that the official purpose for which the Armed Forces of the Philippines troops are being deployed, which is to maintain peace and order in the communities, is a function of the police and the local authorities," he said.

Maria Gordon and Victor del Prado, the chairs of Barangays Magallanes and Sta. Cruz, respectively, expressed similar sentiments.

"The peace and order in our barangay and surrounding communities have consistently been under excellent control by local authorities," Gordon said.

METROBRIEFS

Brothers charged

TWO BROTHERS were charged with cruelty to animals at the Caloocan City prosecutor's office yesterday after hundreds of dead cats, frogs and sharks were found in their possession. Supt. William Macavinta, the city police chief, said four live cats were also found in the jeep of brothers Artemio and Arturo Sanchez, residents at 103 Sta. Rita Street, Barangay 19, Caloocan City. According to Macavinta, 23 dead cats, at least 300 frogs and 10 small sharks placed separately in big containers were found in the suspect's vehicle after it was flagged down by the police for an inspection. The Sanchezes, however, refused to say where they got the animals although they admitted that they were intended for students of a medical school. The brothers were accosted by the police on Dagat-dagatan Avenue, Caloocan City at 4:30 a.m.

Nancy Carvajal

Worker kills self

A SUPERVISOR of a company based in Makati City was believed to have hanged himself over problems at work, investigators said yesterday. The body of Johny Sison, 49, a stay-in worker of the Positive Response Vision Inc., was found dangling from a beam inside the warehouse at 1191 Vito Cruz Extension, Barangay Sta. Cruz. A nylon cord was looped around the victim's neck when security guard Geme Sanson found him at 6:45 a.m., the case investigator, PO3 Ronello Manaog, said in his report. Investigation showed that prior to the incident, Sison's boss had reprimanded him for an unspecified work-related violation and had asked him to submit a written explanation. A suicide note believed to have been written by the victim was found in his possession. The victim's body was taken to the Veronica Funeral Parlor for autopsy, the police said.

DJ Yap

Fake glasses seized

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation seized P10.7 million worth of fake sunglasses in raids on several establishments in different areas of Metro Manila. Assistant Regional Director Vicente de Guzman III, chief of the NBI Special Action Unit, said his men raided several stalls on Rizal Avenue in Sta. Cruz; Carriedo, Palanca and Platerias Streets in Quiapo; and in Baclaran, Parañaque City following complaints about fake Prada, Louis Vuitton and Oakley products allegedly sold in the establishments.

Tina G. Santos

'Media hype' to build up case hit

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SIBLINGS OF SLAIN BUSINessman Federico "Rico" Delgado yesterday said the relatives of their stepbrother Luis Gonzalez, the main suspect in Delgado's death, should air their sentiments in the proper legal forum instead of the media and the Internet.

Jose Mari Delgado said the family has heard many people defending Gonzalez, but the latter has yet to speak out for himself or to submit his counteraffidavit to the Department of Justice which is conducting the preliminary investigation on his murder case.

"We're wondering why everybody is speaking on behalf of Luisito when Luisito himself has not come out. If he's not guilty, one would want to defend oneself," Jose Mari said.

Delgado, son of shipping magnate Francisco "Paco" Delgado, was found dead in his apartment in Malate, Manila in March this year. The murder charge against Gonzalez was filed later the same month.

"I'm not saying they should stop making public statements. If they have anything to say, they should say it in the proper forum or the courts," Jose Mari told reporters in a press conference yesterday held with his siblings Isabel and Franco.

He added that they decided to hold the press conference because Gonzalez' relatives have been making public statements about the case and attesting to the suspect's innocence "instead of focusing their attention on filing their counteraffidavit in the prosecutor's office."

According to him, he and his siblings were also made to appear as "bad people" based on what has been coming out in the Internet.

Delgado added that their family would pursue the criminal and civil cases it has filed against the Gonzalez family.

Apart from murder, a robbery charge has also been filed against Ruby Gonzalez-Meyer, Luis' sister. Meyer allegedly took the safety vault in the room of her stepfather shortly after her mother's death last year.

Gonzalez' psychiatrist Jon Edward Jurilla has said it was "highly unlikely" that his patient killed Delgado because he was in hospital undergoing treatment for drug addiction when the incident happened.

Build new jails for inmates, PAO tells Metro mayors

By Julie M. Aurelio

CITING THE JAILS OF MANILA, Caloocan and Quezon City as among the most crowded in Metro Manila, a lawyers' group yesterday called on mayors to build new prisons for their inmates.

The Public Attorneys Office appealed to Mayors Alfredo Lim of Manila, Recom Echiverri of Caloocan and Feliciano Belmonte of Quezon City to take into consideration the sanitary conditions of their cramped jails.

"I will write to Mayors Lim, Belmonte and Echiverri to ask them to please, build new city jails for their inmates. Some of them are already dying because of the very bad conditions," PAO chief Persida Acosta told the INQUIRER.

Acosta was accompanied by 35 lawyers and doctors from the National Bureau of Investigation during their visit to the Las Piñas City Jail yesterday to provide legal counseling and conduct medical checkups on its inmates.

The lawyers' group, an attached agency of the Department of Justice, previously visited the city jails of Manila, Marikina, Caloocan, and Quezon City to campaign for the decongestion of the jails.

Acosta pointed out that some jails could regularly accommodate 800 to 900 inmates. However more than 1,000 inmates are cramped inside the Quezon City Jail, the PAO chief claimed.

"Some of them sleep in an upright or sitting position. They badly need the space," Acosta said in a phone interview yesterday.

Flood control measures in place—MMDA

By DJ Yap

FOLLOWING TUESDAY'S DOWNpour that flooded many parts of the metropolis, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority yesterday assured the public that it is on top of the situation.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said he has already deployed equipment to flood-prone areas in Metro Manila that would allow rain water to subside faster.

Flood control measures, he added, are continuously upgraded, especially in cities most frequently hit by flooding such as the Camanava (Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela) area.

MMDA Flood Control Sewerage Management Office chief Director Baltazar Melgar blamed "unscrupulous individuals," who purposely flood certain areas by putting wooden planks in flooded areas, forcing pedestrians to use these makeshift bridges for a fee.

Melgar said his office has relentlessly conducted cleaning, desilting and dredging of major waterways.

He added that the MMDA has dredged eight major and 14 minor pumping stations of garbage in various parts of the metropolis to allow the easy flow of floodwater.

Melgar said motorists also tend to cause traffic problems sometimes when they "counter flow" even when streets are not too flooded.

Fernando advised motorists who come across flooded areas to drive in low gear while stepping on the accelerator and clutching the pedal evenly and steadily.

Eviction looms . . . From page A17

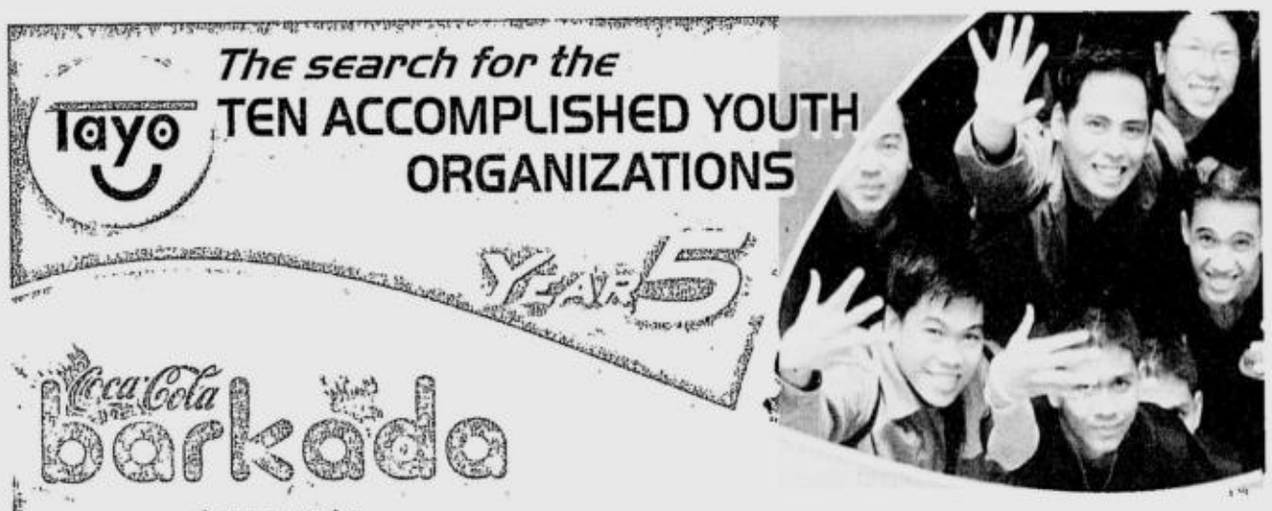
ing Council, yesterday met with affected residents in Pandacan where demolition operations have already started, before proceeding to Sampaloc.

With him were Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, PNR General Manager Jose Maria Sarasola and National Housing Authority General Manager Rico Laxa.

In Pandacan, De Castro said relocated families were given a new lease in life because apart from being given affordable house and lots, they were transferred to sites that had schools, health centers and police precincts. The relocation sites include Cabuyao, Laguna; Trece Martires, Cavite; and Bulacan.

Lim, meanwhile, asked the residents to support the Vice President's program as he assured them that their relocation to Trece Martires, Cavite, was "for their own good."

Sampaloc residents, however, said they would rather move to Cabuyao, Laguna, instead of Cavite because of better facilities and job opportunities. De Castro, however, said this was unlikely since around 8,000 people had already been relocated there.



Calling all youth Organizations with community or school-based projects!

50,000 cash grant for the ten selected organizations!!!

also brought to you by:
the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Chevron Philippines
the United Nations, Cebu Pacific, the National Youth Commission
the Office of Senate Majority Leader Kiko Pangilinan
the Philippine Council of Young Political Leaders
and the TAYO Awards Foundation

QUALIFICATIONS
- Open to all groups, organizations, clubs and societies whose membership and leadership is composed of at least 15 members who are 15 to 30 years old.
- Organizations shall be judged on the basis of a recent program or project that made an impact on the community and which best reflects the efforts of young people as partners in nation-building.
- A continuing project entry (or one that started in 2006) must either be completed, or a major portion must have been undertaken by the deadline.

REQUIREMENTS
The organization shall submit five (5) copies of the following:
- Accomplished Entry Form.
- One-page certification attesting to the existence and veracity of the information submitted
  - For In-School Youth Organizations, a certification from the Office of Student Affairs
  - For Community-based, Out-of-School Youth Organizations a certification from the barangay
- A one-page short profile of the organization featuring a brief description, its nature and background, programs and track record.
- A three-page profile of the Project Entry, featuring a brief but descriptive account or narrative that will illustrate the program/project. The description of the project should include the following: (1) its site, (2) timetable (start and ending dates of program/project), (3) process of implementation, (4) level of community involvement, (5) profile and number of beneficiaries and finances/resources used.
  - The financial sketch should identify how much was spent for the program/project, and the source(s) of funds used.
- 3-page project documentation (photos, testimonies of partners or beneficiaries, certificates, etc.)

*Entry forms are available from NYC offices, your school's Student Affairs and from Coke Plants located nationwide. You may also download forms: www.tayoawards.org, www.youth.net.ph or www.cokebarkada.com.

SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES IS EXTENDED UP TO JULY 15, 2007

For inquiries and/or submission of entries: (02) 781-1152, (02) 781-1671, (02) 749-9401 Local 115 or (02) 781-1406
4/F Bookman Building, 373 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City or to The COCA-COLA FOUNDATION
1B/F SMPC, 87 St. Francis Ave. Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City
or to any COCA-COLA Plant c/o the HR Manager
or email us at tayo.secretariat@gmail.com.

Get the latest updates! Text TAYO to 2948 or call 0917-1kt-TAYO (0917-898-8296)

Marikina grade school . . . From page A17

such as the Concentrated Learning Encounter, an initiative that focuses on enhancing comprehension, and the "Eager Readers" project being spearheaded by the city library.

"Our ultimate vision is to create 'zero-non-readers in Marikina," Fernando added.

She said that previously, the city government was focused on strengthening its education programs to produce graduates who will be able to get jobs immediately.

According to her, the city government aims to have two workers per family to increase employment and reduce the dependency ratio, which is the key to decreasing the poverty level.

Woman solon meddling in a murder case?

A MUSLIM CONGRESSWOMAN IS ALLEGEDLY pressuring Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez to drop the case against Mayor Aminola Mangurun of Kapai, Lanao del Sur, the primary suspect in the murder of Army Capt. Sadat Tamano in 2005.

The mayor reportedly suspected the captain, a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy, of having relations with his wife.

A multiple murder case was filed in court by the government prosecutor of Cagayan de Oro City against Aminola et al. Tamano was ambushed, along with his military driver, in front of a big department store in Cagayan de Oro.

A motion for reconsideration was filed by Aminola and his coaccused, Lininding Ampal and Col. Pilimpinas Dagalangit, with Secretary Gonzalez.

My sources at the Department of Justice say the woman legislator has been allegedly badgering Gonzalez to drop the multiple murder case.

In fairness to Gonzalez, he has affirmed the decision of the Cagayan de Oro prosecutor.

But, the congresswoman reportedly wants him to change his decision and drop the case altogether.

The congresswoman reportedly told Gonzalez that Tamano "deserved to die as he was playing around with the wife of another Muslim."

For a legislator to justify a murder is the height of abuse of power.

* * *

Let's hope that Secretary Gonzalez does not succumb to the congresswoman's intense pressure.

There is talk that he was also pressured into dropping a drug trafficking case against a Maranaw who is suspected of running the infamous shabu *tiangge* (flea market) in Pasig.

A friendly reminder to Gonzalez: Please read all the papers that are presented to you before signing them, especially if they come from your close subordinates.

You see, people close to Gonzalez have been taking advantage of the man's dislike for reading voluminous documents. *Parang si Erap noon.*

* * *

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

Retired police Chief Supt. Ricardo Dapat is the new chief of the Bureau of Corrections (BOC).

Outgoing BOC Director Vicente Vinarao did not show up to hand over the helm to Dapat yesterday.

Dapat, who was chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group when he retired, said he would continue the good work of Vinarao.

He said he would disallow the beating up of new inmates by old prisoners as a form of initiation.

He also said he would severely punish the practice of sodomy among inmates. Sodomy of handsome inmates, especially the new ones, has long been a practice not only at the National Penitentiary but also in other jails and prisons as well.

Dapat said he would provide the inmates with more palatable food.

He added that he would not play favorites among his subordinates.

A word of caution to Dapat: Watch out for a wily female subordinate who might try to ensnare you.

* * *

Why are men from the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) tailing former beauty queen Sabrina Artadi when she's not a suspected enemy of the state?

A certain Captain Rivera and a M/Sgt. Mark Araneta told the guards of an exclusive village where Artadi lives that she invited them to visit her.

But when the guards manning the gate of the subdivision checked with Artadi, they learned that there was no such invitation.

Chicago reporter quits in scandal over video

CHICAGO—A CHICAGO TELEVISION reporter left her job after she was caught on video in a swimsuit at the home of a man whose wife disappeared two months ago—a story she was assigned to cover—raising ethical questions about her conduct.

The video, posted on a rival station's website, shows veteran WMAQ-TV reporter Amy Jacobson wearing a halter bikini top and towel near the pool at Craig Stebic's suburban Plainfield home.

Jacobson's two young children and a bare-chested Stebic are also shown in the video, shot Friday.

Staff members received a memo on Tuesday afternoon from station officials saying that "Amy Jacobson is leaving NBC 5 News, effective immediately," according to the Chicago Tribune, which obtained a copy.

"Amy's contributions as a reporter over the last 10 years are numerous," the memo said. "Her hustle and passion for news have given us an edge on many top stories. She's worked long hours on many days, and we appreciate all she's done."

Jacobson had not appeared on air since news of the video broke on Monday.

"If you're a reporter you don't put yourself in that kind of situation, especially if you're covering the story," said Larry Stuelpnagel, assistant professor at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism and Department of Political Science.

Jacobson's lawyer, Kathleen Zellner, told the Tribune she was concerned the media would distort the contents of the tape.

"She wasn't fired. There was no drinking. No one was sitting in a hot tub. She wasn't anywhere near him (Craig Stebic)," Zellner said. "(Stebic's) sister invited her to drop by."

Jacobson was assigned to cover the disappearance of Stebic's wife, Lisa, who still lived with her husband while the two went through a divorce. No one has been charged in the case, which has generated high interest here since the young mother of two disappeared on April 30.

Craig Stebic was the last person to see her, but police have said he is not a suspect in the disappearance. On the day she disappeared, Lisa Stebic had mailed off a petition seeking to remove her husband from the home. In the divorce case, she accused him of being "unnecessarily relentless, cruel, inconsiderate, domineering and verbally abusive." *AP*

Abbas calls for deployment of int'l force in Gaza Strip

RAMALLAH, WEST BANK—Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas called on Tuesday for an international force in the Gaza Strip, which is now controlled by the rival Hamas movement.

"We have insisted on the necessity of deploying an international force in the Gaza Strip to guarantee the delivery of humanitarian aid and to allow citizens to enter and leave freely," Abbas said at a joint news conference in Ramallah after talks with visiting Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi.

Abbas noted the estimated 4,000 Palestinians who have been blocked at the Rafah crossing terminal on the Egyptian border, shut for nearly a month since the Hamas takeover, 11 of whom are reported to have died in the deteriorating humanitarian conditions.

Prodi said deploying an international force would require the agreement of all the parties involved and that the question "has not yet been examined in detail," according to the Arabic translation of his remarks.

Abbas's call threatened to further widen the yawning Palestinian chasm, as Hamas has warned that it would not accept any foreign troops in Gaza and would treat them as an occupying power.

ABBAS AFP

The chief of Hamas's parliamentary bloc, Salah al-Bardawil, reaffirmed the position on Tuesday.

"We will not accept the presence of an international force," he said during a press conference in Gaza.

"The arrival of such a force would be a flagrant intervention in Palestinian affairs and a new occupation that we totally reject," he said, accusing Abbas of "allying himself with foreigners against Hamas." The United States gave a lukewarm response to Abbas' call.

"The focus should be on building up functioning, capable, responsible Palestinian security forces that are capable of functioning" in Gaza and the Israeli-occupied West Bank, said State Department spokesperson Sean McCormack.

"I'm not sure that you're going to find too many forces willing to go into what I expect is a non-permissive environment," McCormack said, adding that Abbas' proposal would have to be studied.

"I'm not sure it's gotten a lot of traction at this point. But look, if serious people come up with ideas and they float them, of course we'll take a look at them," he added.

Militants from Islamist Hamas overran forces loyal to the moderate Abbas in Gaza on June 15, effectively splitting the Palestinians into two entities, with the president controlling the occupied West Bank and Hamas running Gaza.

Following the Gaza takeover by a group whose charter calls for the destruction of the Jewish state, Israel closed off the overcrowded territory, except for limited humanitarian aid.

The closure has sparked warnings of a humanitarian crisis in the territory, one of the most densely populated places on earth, and where more than 80 percent of the 1.5 million residents depend on aid.

Abbas again ruled out any dialogue with the Hamas "putschists." Prodi offered full support to Abbas and the emergency government, headed by Western-backed premier and respected economist Salam Fayyad, which the president appointed after firing the Hamas-led cabinet in the wake of the Islamists' takeover.

"The efforts of president Abbas and Fayyad should be firmly supported," Prodi said. "They have to be able to show to their people that there exists a ray of hope." Offering Palestinians humanitarian aid "is not enough," he said.

"We have to create investments, facilitate the movement of people and goods so that the economic situation improves." Prodi, who met with Israeli officials on Monday, was on his first visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories since assuming power in 2006. *AFP*

Anonymous donor leaves cash in toilets

TOKYO—ENVELOPES WITH CASH HAVE been left in public restrooms across Japan, officials said on Wednesday, as the bizarre form of anonymous charity turned into a nationwide phenomenon.

A day after two small cities on the main island of Honshu reported finding cash in men's rooms in public buildings, officials from north to south Japan disclosed that they too had discovered such mysterious packages.

The unusual charity drive was a top story on national television, with media estimating that at least 2 million yen ($16,500) has been dropped off in bathrooms.

Each dropoff has the same format—a package of individually wrapped 10,000-yen bills each with an identical handwritten letter.

"Please make use of this enclosed inheritance money of 10,000 yen to fund your self-enrichment," each letter says, handwritten with a traditional brush and evoking the language of Buddhist monks.

On Wednesday, officials in Miyazaki prefecture on the southern island of Kyushu and in Sapporo on the northern island of Hokkaido both said they had found such packages in recent weeks. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Strong baht closes factory

BANGKOK—Almost 5,000 Thai textile workers protested outside factories on Wednesday after they were laid off by a company that closed due to a drop in orders blamed on the strong Thai currency, labor officials said. The workers showed up for their jobs early Wednesday only to find a notice saying that their employer, the Thai Silp South East Asia Export and Import Co. Ltd., had gone out of business. The workers spent the day protesting on the road outside the factories to demand that labor authorities step in, said Suthep Aunsamai, deputy head of the government's Labor Protection and Welfare agency. The company produced brand name clothes for export, but said that it had closed after orders dropped due to the baht's rapid rise against the dollar this year, another Labor Ministry official said. *AFP*

17 dead in Afghan blast

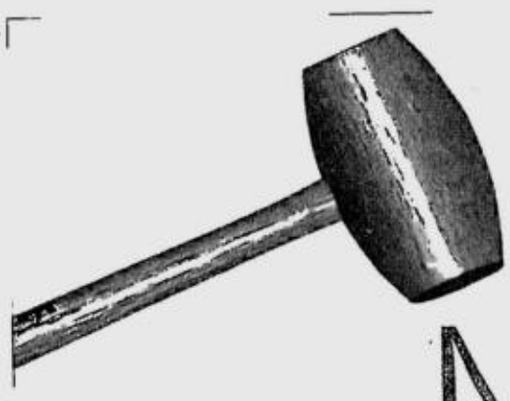
KANDAHAR—Seventeen civilians, a dozen of them schoolboys, were killed and 30 others wounded when a suicide bomber blew himself up near a Nato convoy in southern Afghanistan on Tuesday, officials said. Nato's International Security Assistance Force said eight of its soldiers were wounded in the attack, some of them seriously. A spokesperson for the extremist Taliban movement, which is waging an insurgency against the Afghan government with the support of al-Qaida-linked operatives, claimed responsibility for the blast in Uruzgan province. *AFP*

Adulterer stoned to death

TEHRAN—The Iranian government confirmed on Tuesday that a man was executed by stoning last week for committing adultery, and said 20 more men would be executed in the coming days on morality violations. A judiciary spokesperson, Alireza Jamshidi, told reporters that a death sentence by stoning had been carried out last week near the city of Takestan, west of Tehran, despite an order by the chief of the judiciary, Ayatollah Mahmoud Shahroudi, not to carry out such executions. *NYT*

Japan has highest ratio of elderly

TOKYO—More than 20 percent of Japan's population are age 65 or over, the highest rate among 37 nations with populations of more than 30 million, according to a government report, highlighting concerns about Japan's rapidly aging population. Japan's elderly ratio stands at 20.1 percent, followed by Italy at 19.7 percent and Germany at 18.8 percent, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications said in the report, released on Tuesday. The ratio for the US stood at 12.3 percent, 11th among the 37 countries, according to the report. *AP*



Next time, spare Junior's savings.

Too broke that you need to break your child's piggybank?
Not when you have

INSULAR LIFE
i-ASSURE max

i-Assure max is the lifetime protection plan that takes care of your family's future and provides funds for spending on life's necessities and leisure. **i-Assure max** gives cash allowances by the end of the 4th year and every other year thereafter. These are benefits guaranteed by the financial strength and dependability of nearly 100 years of continuous service by the first and largest Filipino life insurance company, Insular Life.

To know more about **i-Assure max**, call 771-1818 or e-mail us at inquiry@insularlife.com.ph. You can also visit our website at www.insularlife.com.ph.

THE INSULAR LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.

Insular Life Corporate Centre, Insular Life Drive, Filinvest Corporate City Alabang, Muntinlupa City

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Al-Qaida threatens more attacks on UK

DUBAI—AL-QAIDA'S SECOND-IN-COMMAND, Ayman al-Zawahiri, on Tuesday threatened more attacks on Britain, two weeks after two failed bombings and criticized the country's decision to award author Salman Rushdie a knighthood.

"I say to (Former British Prime Minister Tony) Blair's successor that the policy of your predecessor drew catastrophes in Afghanistan and Iraq and even in the center of London," the Egyptian cleric said in an audio tape posted on the Internet.

"If you did not learn the lesson then we are ready to repeat it, God willing, until we are sure you have fully understood." It was not immediately possible to verify the authenticity of the 20-minute tape, which appeared on a website used by al-Qaida-linked groups with a still photograph of Zawahiri.

The recording came just days after two car bombs were found in London and a fuel-packed jeep was rammed into Glasgow Airport in Scotland—botched attacks which Prime Minister Gordon Brown said were associated with al-Qaida.

Zawahiri also attacked Britain's controversial decision to award Rushdie a knighthood, saying Queen Elizabeth had sent a clear message to Muslims by honoring a novelist who had insulted Islam, and said the group was preparing a response.

Rushdie is best known for his novel "The Satanic Verses," which outraged many Muslims and prompted death threats that forced him to live in hiding for nine years.

Zawahiri said the least Muslims could do was to boycott British goods to protest Rushdie's knighthood.

A spokesperson for Brown rejected Zawahiri's comments.

"We do not intend to dignify this with a response," the spokesperson said. "As the prime minister has said, the British people will remain united, resolute and strong and we will not allow terrorists to undermine the British way of life."

Zawahiri, who has spoken out regularly in audio-taped messages in recent months, also called on Muslims in Pakistan to fight President Pervez Musharraf, whose forces killed a rebel Islamist leader and more than 50 militants on Tuesday when they stormed an Islamabad mosque compound after a week-long siege.

"I say to the Muslims in Pakistan that the real challenge to Musharraf lies not in demonstrations nor in elections ... but by backing *jihad* in Afghanistan," he said, without referring specifically to the siege and violence at the Red Mosque.

"An Islamic emirate in Afghanistan is the hope for real change in the region and hopefully the final blow to the Crusaders ... in South Asia." Zawahiri, who last year called for attacks on United Nations peacekeepers patrolling Lebanon's southern border with Israel, also blessed a bombing that killed six Spanish troops in June and called for more. *Reuters*

With your BancNet ATM card, pwedeng-pwede kang mag-cash-in pang load ng phone! Hindi mo na kailangang magdala ng pera at pumunta sa GCash outlets! Dahil sa dami ng BancNet ATMs, kayang-kayang magcash-in anytime, anywhere!

How to get GCash via BancNet ATM:

1 Select "TRANSFER"

2 Select either "SAVINGS TO ANOTHER BANK" or "CHECKING TO ANOTHER BANK"

3 Then, select "ASIA UNITED BANK/ GLOBE G-CASH" as target bank

4 Finally, enter your 11 - digit Globe or TM mobile #

Gamitin lang ang GCash na pang-load ng phone and get a **10% rebate!** May load ka na, makakatipid ka pa!

Promo period is from April 2 up to October 2, 2007. See poster for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1346. Series of 2007.

Call 2882 for more information.

* P25.00 per transaction made.

Available din sa: TM Pinakamaganda na Touch Mobile

opo, ang lakas mo sa Globe™

BancNet Non-Stop Banking Network

Asia United Bank

Participating banks:
Allied Banking Corporation • Asia United Bank • Banco Filipino • Banco San Juan • Centennial Savings Bank • China Banking Corporation • Chinatrust Bank • Citibank • Citibank Savings • Citystate Savings Bank • East West Bank • Export Bank • Greenbank, Inc. • Malayan Bank • Manila Bank • Merchants Bank • Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company • Opportunity Microfinance Bank • PBCom • Philippine Savings Bank • Philtrust Bank • Postal Bank • RCBC Savings Bank • Real Bank • Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation • Security Bank • Standard Chartered Bank • Tong Yang Bank • World Partners Bank

Rebel cleric shot dead in Pakistan siege

GHAZI AFP

ISLAMABAD—PAKISTANI security forces were securing the last parts of a mosque and school complex on Wednesday, a day after an assault that killed a rebel cleric, more than 50 Islamist fighters and eight soldiers.

Many questions were unanswered including the final death toll and whether any women or children had been killed at the radical Lal Masjid, or Red Mosque, in Islamabad.

"The remaining parts of the complex are being cleared, the headquarters and residential complex of Ghazi and the other militants," said military spokesperson Maj. Gen. Waheed Arshad.

He said he had no report of women or children among the dead.

Hardline cleric Abdul Rashid Ghazi died in a hail of bullets in a last stand on Tuesday night. It had yet to be decided where and when he would be buried, officials said.

Three militants were killed in an exchange of fire overnight but there were no further reports of clashes, Arshad said. An occasional explosion rang out from the fortified mosque-school complex as troops destroyed booby-traps and mines.

Heavy security was still in place around the compound with reporters kept back and a curfew in the neighborhood.

Eight members of the security forces were killed and 29 wounded in "Operation Silence," the codename for the final assault that raged from before dawn to after dusk.

Heavy casualties, especially among women and children who were religious students based at the compound would be bad for President Pervez Musharraf, going through arguably the worst patch of a roller-coaster eight years in power.

Elections are due later this year and the general, who came to power in a 1999 coup, is seeking a second five-year term. He is expected to address the nation on Wedneday or Thursday. *Reuters*

Astronomers spot 1st planet with water

PARIS—ASTRONOMERS ON WEDNESday announced they had spotted the first planet beyond the Solar System that has water, the precious ingredient for life.

The watery world, though, is far beyond the reach of our puny chemically-powered rockets—and in any case is quite uninhabitable.

It is made of gas rather than rock and its atmosphere reaches temperatures hot enough to melt steel, which means the water exists only as superheated steam.

The find, named HD189733b, is about 15 percent bigger than our Jupiter and orbits a star in the constellation of Vulpecula the Fox, according to a paper released by Nature, the weekly British science journal.

It was spotted by a team led by Giovanna Tinetti of the European Space Agency (ESA) and University College London.

As HD 189733b swung in front of its star, it absorbed part of the spectrum of starlight in a telltale way that can only be explained by the presence of water in its atmosphere, the discoverers say.

Extrasolar worlds—also called exoplanets—were first spotted in 1995.

So far, 245 of them have been spotted, according to the Extrasolar Planets Encyclopaedia (http://exoplanet.eu/), and the tally is growing at the rate of three or four a month.

Virtually all of the discoveries have been made indirectly, mainly by a "wobble" in light, seen from Earth, when the planet swings around its star. *AFP*

WHAT'S INSIDE
Fil-Aussie makes history /A22

SPORTS

Website: www.inquirer.net/sports

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com

Phone Pals whip Aces, seize 2-1 series edge

San Miguel-RP tests Lebanon in Manila Invitational

DONDON Hontiveros tries to fake off a Kazakhstan defender in the recent Jones Cup. Hontiveros and the Nationals go into their last phase of preparation in the Manila Invitational that starts today.

GAMES TODAY (*The Arena*)
4:30 p.m.—Syria vs China
6:30 p.m.—Opening Ceremonies
7:30 p.m.—SMC-Pilipinas vs Lebanon

By Musong R. Castillo

THE TALK 'N TEXT DEFENSE CHOKED ALASka senseless in the final two periods last night as the Phone Pals came from 23 points down to post a 95-87 victory and take a 2-1 lead in their best-of-seven series for the PBA Fiesta Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

JJ Sullinger, in a performance that came after losing the Best Import trophy to Rosell Ellis, scored 17 of his 30 points in the second half to all but power the Phone Pals in one of the most magnificent comeback stories in Finals history.

Mac Cardona also shone, shooting eight of his 20 in the final frame that helped repel several Alaska comebacks as the Phone Pals won for the second straight night to add to their building confidence heading into the crucial fourth game, which takes place at 7 p.m. tomorrow.

"I have complete faith in this team. We surprised everyone that we are here (in the Finals)," coach Derrick Pumaren said. "I know what this team is capable of doing and the boys showed it tonight.

"This was a crucial game for us. We wanted to take the lead (in the series) because we don't want to play catch-up basketball," he added. "But it's still far early to tell. There's still no turning point (in the series) yet."

Talk 'N Text steadily nibbled away at a 20-43 second quarter deficit with a sustained team effort in the third quarter and a defensive blanket that Alaska coach Tim Cone never got to figure out.

Meanwhile, with less than three weeks to go before the Fiba-Asia Olympic qualifier, the Philippines plunges into the last phase of its preparations today as the four-nation Manila Invitational gets off the ground at The Arena in San Juan.

The tournament, which will also have Syria, Lebanon and rock-solid China seeing action, will allow Reyes a final glimpse of some of the noted competition while also giving him a firm idea on who to bring to Tokushima, Japan as the Philippines bids for an Olympic slot later in the month.

The scores:

TALK 'N TEXT 95—Sullinger 30, Cardona 20, Belano 14, Carey 11, Washington 9, De Ocampo 7, Allado 2, Pablo 2, Billones 0.

ALASKA 87—Miller 29, Ellis 22, Cortez 16, Hugnatan 7, Thoss 6, Belasco 4, Laure 2, Ferriols 1, Singson 0.

Quarters: 15-30, 40-56, 67-68, 95-87

Cardona: I deserve best player trophy

IN A TOURNAMENT THAT needed to see new stars, Mac Cardona not only obliged. He also won the award to validate his rise to superstardom.

The 25-year-old Talk 'N Text spitfire, who owns one of the most awkward but lethal shots in the PBA today, last night was named the Fiesta Cup's Player of the Conference, winning by a wide margin over former MVP Willie Miller of Alaska.

"I think I am deserving of the award," Cardona, who totaled 1,488 points in winning the statistical points race, the media, ABC-5 and PBA votes, told scribes in Filipino. "I played well during the eliminations and the semifinals."

Alaska's Rosell Ellis, another unorthodox player, won the Best Import plum over Talk 'N Text's JJ Sullinger.

Drafted fifth overall in 2004 behind Anthony Washington, Alex Cabagnot, Dennis Miranda and Jondan Salvador, Cardona got his chance in the star-laden Talk 'N Text lineup when three of its starters, Asi Taulava, Jimmy Alapag and Ren-Ren Ritualo, were lent to the national team.

He raised his game several notches and has become the backbone of the Phone Pals' offense, especially in the playoffs as Talk 'N Text virtually followed the 6-foot-1 swingman wherever he went.

Cardona averaged 27.5 points when the Phone Pals dethroned Red Bull in six games in the semifinals. He scored just 13 points in a Game 1 loss to Miller and the Aces in the Finals before shooting 30 in Game 2 on Sunday that leveled the best-of-seven series. *Musong R. Castillo*

Condes: It's the 'Little Pacquiao' who has the title

By Tarra Quismundo

HE MAY BE UNDER THE SHADows of a more popular ring idol, but this diminutive southpaw called "Little Pacquiao" knows his championship belt outshines the title of the mustachioed boxing top-grosser from whose name he got his moniker.

On his return to Manila on Monday night, International Boxing Federation (IBF) mini-flyweight champion Florante Condes carried a demeanor far from the underdog that he was before stealing the title from Indonesian Muhammad Rachman on Saturday.

While proud of being compared to super featherweight ring icon Manny Pacquiao, Condes knew he has much more to brag about.

"Our difference is I am a world champ," said Condes, both forward and shy as he paused to laugh while holding the title belt hanging over his shoulder.

"He is a People's champ," the 27-year-old boxer said in a press conference at the airport.

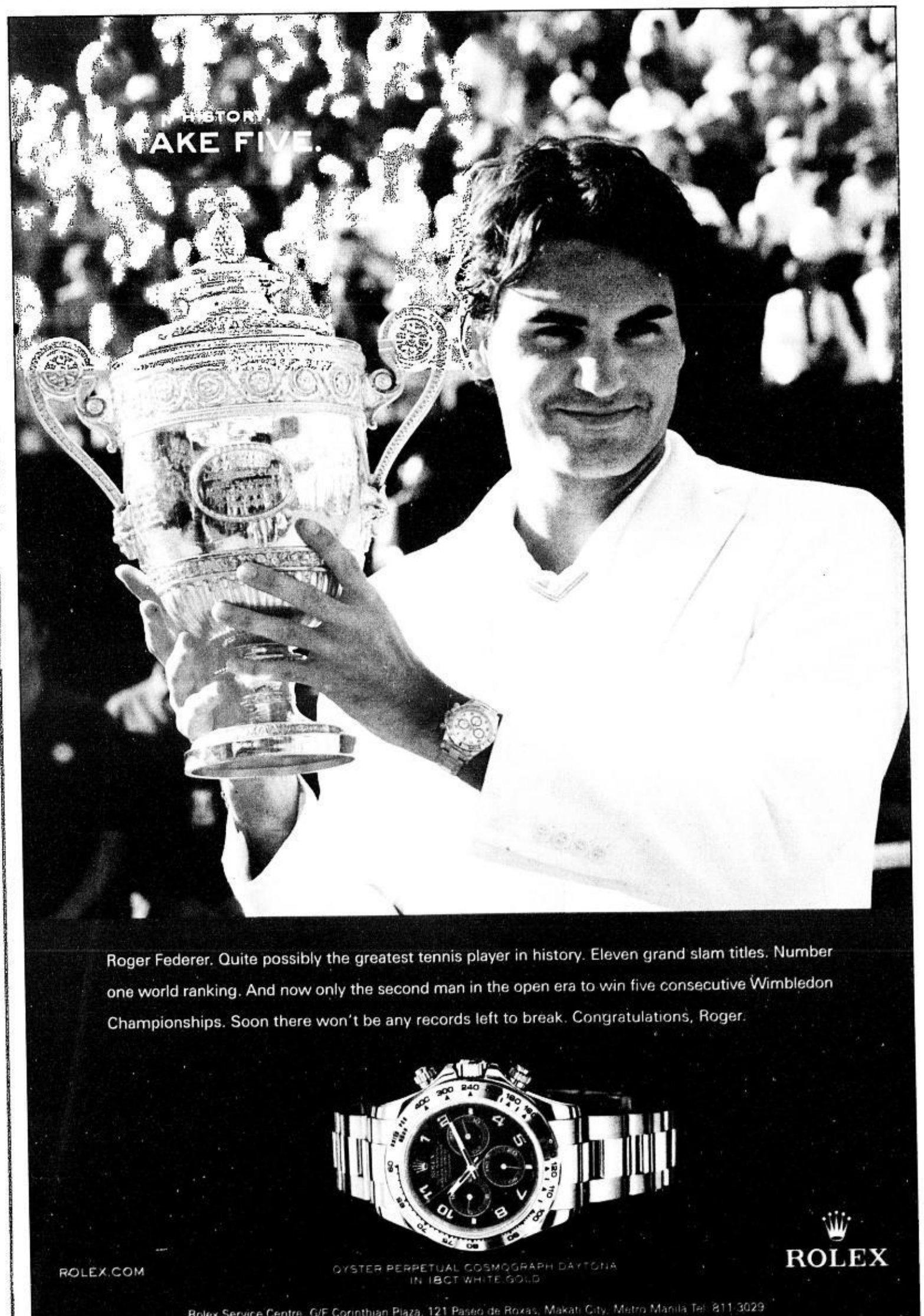
He went on to explain: "That's very different because we haven't had a world champion since 2001, only now."

HE PACKS as much punching power as Manny Pacquiao, minus the crowd-drawing skills. But Florante Condes knows the belt slung over his shoulders is what makes him the real deal. JESS YUSON

At the same time, the boxer who idolizes notorious American heavyweight Mike Tyson knows he has much more to prove.

"Actually, this wasn't my biggest win yet. I still want to prove that I can hold on to this

CONDES/ A22



Roger Federer. Quite possibly the greatest tennis player in history. Eleven grand slam titles. Number one world ranking. And now only the second man in the open era to win five consecutive Wimbledon Championships. Soon there won't be any records left to break. Congratulations, Roger.

ROLEX.COM

OYSTER PERPETUAL COSMOGRAPH DAYTONA IN 18CT WHITE GOLD

ROLEX

Rolex Service Centre, G/F Corinthian Plaza, 121 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, Metro Manila Tel. 811-3029

Fil-Aussie makes history

Day youngest PGA winner at 19

DAY: Legend Financial Group Classic champ

By Jong Arcano

STILL WAITING FOR THE FIRST Filipino to play in the PGA Tour? Not to worry, it seems that we're "halfway" there.

Jason Day, who recently became the youngest player to win on any of the PGA Tour's three tours by topping the Legend Financial Group Classic of the Nationwide Tour, is half-Filipino.

Leading websites indicate Day has Filipino lineage. It is believed that his mother is a Filipino.

The 19-year-old Day scored his first victory as a pro in his rookie year when he won the Legends Financial Group Classic in Cleveland. He is two years younger than the previous holder of the record James Oh.

The win worth $94,500 pushed Day to eighth on the Nationwide Tour's money list, giving him a good chance of obtaining his PGA Tour card automatically for 2008. The top 25 are assured of entry into the PGA Tour next season.

Day turned pro almost a year ago and immediately signed an endorsement deal with TaylorMade and Adidas. Playing on sponsors' exemption, Day made the cut in five of his first six PGA Tour events as a pro, with a best finish of 11th at the Reno-Tahoe Open. He tried but failed to earn his 2007 PGA Tour card but has full status on the Nationwide Tour for 2007.

As one of his amateur highlights, Day won the boys 15-17 division at the 2004 Callaway World Junior Championship.

Meanwhile, Benjie Sumulong appears in contention of qualifying cut in the weather-battered US Public Links Championship after a first round three-over-par 75 at the Cantigny course in Wheaton, Illinois.

Sumulong, part of a golfing clan who is now the Commercial Loan Officer of Alaska USA Federal Credit Union in Alaska, has yet to play his second round and needs at least the same score to make it to the 64-man draw. Another US-based Filipino, Judeson Eustaquio, needs a big round to survive the cut after scoring a 78 and was already five over through 17 holes when play was called.

Fifa chief arriving in Manila to grace PFF office opening

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL FEDERATION president Sepp Blatter will be coming to Manila in December to celebrate a hundred years of Philippine football, highlighted by the inauguration of the new P18.5-million Philippine Football Federation office building funded by Fifa's Goal program.

"We would like to thank president Blatter for accepting our invitation in the blessing of our new office as the highlight of our centennial anniversary celebration of football in the country," PFF president Johnny Romualdez said. "Blatter's presence will truly make this an even more memorable historic occasion."

The modern three-story building will be built in Pasig City near the Philsports Complex at a cost of $400,000 (about P18.5 million), according to Malaysian Windsor John, Fifa development officer for Southeast and East Asia, who arrived in the country last Monday.

John said the funds will go directly to Fifa consultant architect Red Avelino, who drafted the plans for the PFF office, and contractor RJ Bearis, Inc., which was given five months to complete it.

John joined Romualdez, PFF executive vice president Mariano Araneta and general secretary Pablo Araneta among those yesterday who took part in groundbreaking ceremonies on the 350-square meter lot on the corner of Danny Floro and Javier Streets, Pasig City.

THE architect's sketch of the new PFF office building

Condes: I have title

From page A22

for a long time," said Condes in Filipino.

The 105-lb, 5-foot-2 fighter from Romblon snagged the title from Rachman in the Indonesian's fourth defense of the world title.

"Actually, the fight should have been held on May 5 but it has been postponed many times. It seemed like they were running away and didn't want to fight us," said Condes' manager, Aljo Jaro.

Asked what was next for the world champ, Condes' team said a rematch has yet to be negotiated. They are certain though that among the negotiating terms would be to have the fight held here at home.

"They are asking for a rematch immediately but we didn't [give a definite] answer because Condes wants to defend the title here so Filipinos can watch him," said adviser Joaquin Mendoza.

But a new round inside the ring was far from Condes' mind as of now. His knuckles still sore from Saturday's winning punches, the boxer said he prefers to take a rest.

"I do not have plans for a rematch yet. Right now, I just want to take a rest," Condes said.

Mighty Filter Kings sweep Negros tour

THE MIGHTY FILTER KINGS, GETTING ANOTHER BIG LIFT FROM TERENCE TANG, BESTED SILAY SELECtion, 72-68, and completed a two-game sweep of their Negros Tour recently at the Silay City gym in Negros Occidental. Tang, brother of La Salle star guard Ty, reprised his stellar role against seven-time Iloilo commercial champion TICEL Corp., a team backstopped by former PBA hotshot Jimwell Torion, by tallying 15 points. The sweet-shooting Tang knocked in 16 points, including four triples, in the team's 115-112 win over TICEL Corp. Thursday. Botchie Domangcas, who scored the game-winning basket over TICEL, and former PBL star Dominic Uy combined for 23 points to highlight the Mighty Kings' attack. Marvin Sioco had 10 blocks for the Mighty Kings. The series was part of Mighty Filter's campaign to promote sports in the countryside.

Air Relay, Epixtar gain finals

AIR RELAY AND EPIXTAR PULLED off contrasting wins recently to set up an a dream title clash in the MBT-Bayan Call Center League at the RTU gym in Mandaluyong City. The Air Relay squad of Scott Nagle routed last year's champion TeleTech, 94-68, while Epixtar went through the wringer before scoring an 88-81 over Pacific Connexion in their own semis match. The finals of the event, also supported by Mighty Filter Kings, Apo Floors, Basil 2000 Sportswear, Team Sparrow and Molten, is scheduled on Sunday at 5:30 p.m. TeleTech and Pacific Connexion were relegated to a battle for third place. For details, call MBT at 6367638 or 09179948408 or visit www.metrobasketball.net.

PBA: Who will be this year's season MVP?

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

THE LAST TIME I talked to PBA head statistician Fidel Mangonon, I remember him telling me that while Phone Pal MacMac Cardona was leading in the Best Player of the Fiesta Conference derby, it doesn't look like he will be able to compile enough points to make him eligible for this year's MVP race.

That's why I was both surprised and impressed to see his name among the finalists, which was released by the PBA the other day. The others are Sta. Lucia's Kelly Williams, Air21's Arwind Santos and Gary David, Alaska's Willie Miller and Purefoods' James Yap.

* * *

If you're wondering why—unlike in the past decades—players whose teams were eliminated early in the season still managed to make it to the finals list, that's because the PBA has changed the format for choosing the Most Valuable Player of the season and the best player of the conference.

For example, the statistical points awarded to each player is now based on averages instead of the accumulated points.

Then too, instead of only one choice for the MVP or the Best Player of the Conference, the voter has to write down his top three choices for each award.

Numbers man Fidel said the first choice gets 60 points for the vote, the second choice, 30 points; and the third, 10.

I didn't have time to get the rationale behind these changes but Fidel promised to discuss it at length next time.

* * *

Late yesterday afternoon, word was out that Cardona has emerged as the Best Player of the Fiesta conference which makes him an automatic candidate for season MVP, as long as he has logged in the required number of minutes and games played.

The winners of the best import and best player of the conference awards were scheduled to be announced yesterday at halftime of Game 3 between Alaska and Talk 'N Text, while the season awards were set to be presented in Game 4.

I was told that it was going to be a close fight between MacMac, and Miller.

One big thing going for MacMac was that his team garnered third place honors in the Philippine Cup, compared to Alaska which failed to make it to the semis.

Fidel said it would be a good chance to find out if the No. 13 proves lucky for Miller, who is aspiring for his second MVP plum.

Aside from the day of the awards falling on a Friday the 13th, Fidel said July 13 is Miller's birthday and his jersey number is 13.

* * *

Incidentally, none among the top candidates for Rookie of the Year honors belong to the Fiesta finalists currently competing.

The top 5 are Kelly Williams of Sta. Lucia, JR Reyes and JunJun Cabatu of Welcoat, LA Tenorio of San Miguel and Arwind Santos of Air 21.

* * *

HOOPVINE: Happy birthday in advance to SBP chair Manny V. Pangilinan who celebrates another milestone on July 17. His friends expect a whole week of festivities.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE AFP BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
(Procurement of (Army Watercraft (Light Support) w/ ILS Package)

1. The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), through the Special Allotment Release Order (SARO) Number D-06-02183 dated April 6, 2006, intends to apply the sum of **THIRTY EIGHT MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED THIRTY THOUSAND PESOS (Php 38,830,000.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the corresponding contract for the *Supply and Delivery of Army Watercraft (Light Support)*. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The Armed Forces of the Philippines, through the GHQ BAC1, now invites from prospective Bidders for the project below:

Item Nr	Nomenclature/Activity	Approved Budget for the Contract	Price of Bid Documents	Delivery Schedule
	GHQ BAC1-MOD-PA-14-07 4 units Army Watercraft (Light Support) w/ ILS Package	Php 38,830,000.00	Php 12,000.00	Two (2) units to be delivered within 180 calendar days upon opening of Letter of Credit (LC) or receipt of the Notice to Proceed (NTP) whichever comes later. Another two (2) units within 180 calendar days after the 1st delivery

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedure using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws and regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). The process for the eligibility, technical and financial checking are described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who would be determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from AFP Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Monday to Friday excluding holidays.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee. The method of payment will be on "cash basis" only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The AFP BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **9:00 A.M., July 20, 2007 (Friday)** at Silid Panday Pira, G/F Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on **9:00 A.M., August 1, 2007 (Wed)**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any form and corresponding amount allowed under RA 9184 and its IRR-A. Late bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on **9:00 A.M., August 1, 2007 (Wed)** at Silid Panday Pira, G/F Bulwagang Mabini,Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. Only offers or bids from prospective bidders who are the manufacturers, distributors or suppliers or their duly-authorized representatives shall be entertained. Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking similar projects within the last five (5) years with at least three (3) similar projects having an aggregate contract cost equivalent to at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC of the project; and the largest of these similar projects must be equivalent to at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the ABC of the project to be bid.
10. To facilitate checking of Class "A" eligibility documents, prospective bidders who wish to participate in the public bidding may apply for registration with the AFP BAC, through the GHQ BAC1 Secretariat, as early as possible but not later than three (3) days prior to the scheduled submission and opening of bids.
11. The AFP reserves the right to reject any and all Bids, declare a failure of bidding or not award the contract without incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Office of the AFP Bids and Awards Committee
G/F Bulwagang Syquia
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Contact Person: ***Ms Edna B Malonzo***
Tel. Nr: 911-6001 Loc 6486/6487
Fax Nr: 911-6001 Loc 6485
Email add: **malonzo499@yahoo.com.ph**

(Sgd.) RADM ALFREDO D ABUEG JR AFP
Chairman, GHQ BAC1

(PDI – July 12, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

"**SEACOM, INC.** IS THE EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTOR OF **MITSUBISHI GASOLINE ENGINES** GRANTED BY MITSUBISHI HEAVY INDUSTRIES, LTD. AND THOSE WITHOUT AUTHORITY FROM IT TO DEAL, SELL, DISTRIBUTE THE SAME SHALL BE PROSECUTED TO THE FULL EXTENT OF THE LAW."

THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY REMINDED NOT TO DEAL WITH UNAUTHORIZED OUTLETS SELLING MITSUBISHI GASOLINE ENGINE.

CACHO & CHUA LAW OFFICES
Units 407-408 Dioresa Plaza
1521 Dapitan St., Sampaloc, Manila

(PDI – July 12, 2007)

RACING

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Love Story (6), Dr. Jude (2), Grand Total (1), Torrible Friend (7)

Race 2—(Tri)—Splendor (5), Getting Darker (3, Classic Appeal (1)

Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—My Lady Hannah (6), Easy Rider (5), One Vision (2), Selfmade (3)

Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Manhattan (3), Heroics (4), Chariot Of Fire (5), Dancing Polly (2)

Race 5—(Tri)—High Octane/Ocean Deep (1), Tiger Song (5), Harrod's Magic (2)

Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Kiss of The Wind (3), Lirao (5), Arctic Desert (7), Money line (4)

Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Scarab (9), Fabiola (7), Scud Missile (1), Virgin Island (2), Friendly Fire (6)

Race 8—Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Gig's Gold (7), Pure Energy (6), Powerdance (9), Kalashnikov (2), Seeing Red (5), Lovely Tara (1)

WBC king open to Donaire bout

WORLD BOXING COUNCIL (WBC) flyweight champion Pongsaklek Wongjongkam of Thailand said he is open to a possible unification war with newly-crowned IBF flyweight king Nonito Donaire of the Philippines.

"If they offer us a very lucrative deal we would want the fight," Wongjongkam's manager Piyarat Vachiraratanawongse told the Bangkok Post. "Pongsaklek can fight anyone and anywhere in the world, it just depends on the offer. I think Pongsaklek is better than Donaire so it is up to Donaire to challenge us."

Donaire stopped erstwhile unbeaten Vic Darchinyan last Sunday in Connecticut. Darchinyan, a brash and talkative Armenian based in Australia, had earlier said he wanted to face Pongsaklek, and his promoter Gary Shaw had even offered a $250,000 purse for the Thai champion to face him in the US.

Pongsaklek (65-2, 34 KOs), who won the WBC title with a shock first-round technical knockout over Filipino Malcolm Tunacao in 2002, is scheduled to make the 18th defense of his WBC belt against Japan's Daisuke Naito (30-2-2, 20 KOs) in Japan next Wednesday.

Donaire was quoted as saying that he would also love to fight Wongjongkam. *Salven Lagumbay, contributor*

SPORTSWATCH

Mongolia joins Taguig bikefest

MONGOLIA CONFIRMED ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE SECOND LEG OF THE FIM Asian Supercross Championship on July 21-22 at the new Fast Track Circuit in Upper Bicutan, Taguig City. This brings the number of participating countries to nine. The organizing Namssa announced that the last day of practice for local riders will be on July 15. For details, email namssa01@hotmail.com or call 09178992363 or check out www.asi-amx.org & www.namssa.org

Luxury sports cars return in GT series

THE COUNTRY'S FINEST DRIVERS AND LUXURY VINTAGE CARS RETURN TO action when the 2007 Petron-San Mig Coffee Philippine Grand Touring (GT) Championship Series stages its second leg on Sunday at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas. The tandem of Joey Perry and Joey Almeda guns for another sweep in the premiere GT 200 class. In the kickoff leg, Perry prevailed over Juny Binamira and Bubi Camus. Log on at www.batangasracingcircuit.com or call 817-2241, 729-5365 or fax 815-1241 for details.

Round 2 of SJC Rambulan today

TOPNOTCH ENCOUNTERS RESUME TODAY AT SAN JUAN COLISEUM WHEN the second round eliminations of the 3M Rambulan 6-cock derby, featuring 50 fights, takes off at 5 p.m. Cockers and breeders may still join the 2-cock elimination rounds on July 14, 17 and 19. Meanwhile, the SJC management also presents the Super Fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan on July 28 with P500,000 up for grabs for an entry fee of P2,200. For inquiries: 7255369 and 09178041691.

LPC cockfest attracts 100 entries

GUARANTEED PRIZES AWAIT TODAY'S WINNERS IN LAS PIÑAS COLISEUM'S weekly Fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan starting at 9 a.m. The fastest win champion and second placer will receive P7,000 and P3,000, respectively. On Saturday, partners Junjun Penaflorida and Arnel Escara will host a 3-cock event with P350,000 up for grabs. Meanwhile, coliseum manager Alex announced that stags banded by different breeders will be accepted in the LPC Annual 7-stag derby on Aug. 23 and 25. For details, call 8731040 and 09267450375.

Cancellara hangs on

Swiss' Tour lead more than 30 seconds

COMPIEGNE, FRANCE—FABIAN Cancellara felt his instinctive knowledge of Compiegne's treacherous cobbled streets would give him an edge over his rivals at the Tour de France.

Cancellara surprised even his own team by attacking from a long way back and mastering the bumpy final stretch of Tuesday's third stage to extend his overall lead to more than 30 seconds.

"I saw that the riders were a little bit surprised about this part of the road, so I attacked," Cancellara, who won in 6 hours, 36 minutes, 15 seconds, said. "It was very instinctive."

He had just about enough energy left to stave off veteran German sprinter Erik Zabel, who was second, and Italy's Danilo Napolitano, who finished third.

Team CSC sporting director Kim Andersen had urged Cancellara to be cautious on the stones that also form part of the famed Paris-Roubaix race every spring.

Cancellara did exactly the opposite.

"We spoke about it on the radio during the race," Andersen said. "We were talking about not to do the sprint, to take care not to crash because it was a little bit dangerous."

FABIAN Cancellara (center) still ahead after the third stage. REUTERS

Even David Zabriskie, who once beat Lance Armstrong in a clock race on the 2005 Tour, was dumbfounded.

"That was an added bonus," Zabriskie said, laughing. "That was not our plan."

Still, it's tough to be critical of this spectacular win.

"Tonight, we're going to open a big, big bottle of champagne," Cancellara said.

Cancellara's feel for the curves and contours of Compiegne's roads made him confident enough to attack with less than a mile to go—a risky move against reputed sprinters like Zabel, Robbie McEwen and Tom Boonen.

"He knew where the stones (cobbles) start and where they finish, the turns and everything," Andersen said.

Cancellara gave all his rivals a good look at the back of his yellow jersey as he used phenomenal leg-speed.

By the end, he was out of his normal tuck position and standing up on his saddle and just held on.

"If you look back too much it's bad," Cancellara said. "The final kilometer was the toughest of my life."

Cancellara, a world champion with a growing reputation, won the Tour prologue in 2004, the Tour de Suisse time trial last month, and now has two victories at this Tour.

Wednesday's fourth stage is a 119.9-mile ride from Villers-Cotterets to Joigny.

Andersen expects Cancellara to keep the yellow jersey "one more day." *AP*

PSC bares P50-M SEA Games budget

By June Navarro

THE PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION has a war chest of P50 million for the country's participation in the coming Southeast Asian Games.

And the sports agency is keen on not going over that budget.

Commissioner Ritchie Garcia made it clear yesterday that the PSC allotment can only shoulder the participation expenses of some 400 athletes and 200 officials in the 24th edition of the games to be held in Nakhon Rachasima, Thailand, on Dec. 6-16.

Garcia bared the PSC will shell out P50 million in the 10-day multi-event gathering or approximately P80,000 for each member of the projected 600-strong RP delegation.

Though the Philippine Olympic Committee has the final word on the composition of Team Philippines, Garcia said they would be coerced to trim down the delegation if its size pushes a breach of the budget.

"The budget (P50 million) can only accommodate a specific number of athletes and officials," said Garcia. "To accommodate the excess, the PSC and the POC should join hands to generate more funds."

Some of the team sports such as volleyball and football are in danger of being stricken off the delegation while rugby and polo are asked to shoulder their own expenses in the 11-nation meet.

Apart from the P50-million budget for actual participation, P20 million will be earmarked for equipment, P15 million for uniforms and another P8.5 million for contingency purposes.

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF THE POWER SUPPLY CONTRACT ENTERED INTO BETWEEN NEGROS OCCIDENTAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. AND KEPCO-SALCON POWER CORPORATION

ERC CASE NO. 2007-130 RC

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (NOCECO) AND KEPCO-SALCON CORPORATION (KSPC),

Applicants

x----------x

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES.

Notice is hereby given that on June 29, 2007, Negros Occidental Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NOCECO) and KEPCO-Salcon Power Corporation (KSPC) filed an application for the approval of their power supply contract

In the said application, NOCECO and KSPC, alleged, among others, that:

1. In order to address the looming power shortage in the Visayas, the National Power Corporation ("NPC"), Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation ("PSALM"), KEPCO Philippines Corporation ("KEPHILCO"), Salcon Power Corporation ("SPC") and the National Transmission Corporation ("TransCo"), executed a Memorandum of Agreement ("MOA") dated 18 August 2005 which provides that KEPHILCO and SPC will build a 2x100 MW Circulating Fluidized Bed Combustor Boiler Coal-Fired base load power plant (the "New Naga Coal Plant") in Naga, Cebu The New Naga Coal Plant is expected to meet the growing power needs of the Visayas area and to provide a stable and reliable supply.
2. KEPHILCO and SPC thereafter incorporated KSPC as the joint venture entity which shall undertake the construction, ownership, operation, management and maintenance of the New Naga Coal Plant.
3. NPC and KSPC subsequently executed a Joint Sales Agreement ("JSA") dated 16 November 2006, which outlines the various duties and obligations of NPC and KSPC relative to the construction and continued operation of the New Naga Coal Plant. KSPC and NPC shall execute an Implementing Agreement to further delineate the duties and obligations of NPC and KSPC found in the JSA.
   - 3.1 Under the JSA, NPC shall market the electricity to be generated from the New Naga Coal Plant and secure firm commitments from several Distribution Utilities ("DU") for the supply of such electricity. KSPC shall have the duty to construct the plant.
   - 3.2 KSPC will enter into such number of Power Sales Contracts with the DUs as will allow the New Naga Coal Plant to operate at 80% plant factor. KSPC shall supply the base load contract quantities of the DUs and shall source from NPC the balance of the contract quantities at an average time-of-use rate ("TOU") of P4.30/kWh, subject to adjustments, for a period of ten years
4. Pursuant to the JSA, on 24 May 2007, KSPC and NOCECO executed the Power Sales Contract ("PSC") subject of the instant application
5. Under the PSA, KSPC shall supply NOCECO a total Contract Quantity of 140,668,397 kWh a year. Of such quantity, KSPC shall supply NOCECO's base load contract quantity in kWh ("KSPC Contract Quantity") through electricity generated by the New Naga Coal Plant to be constructed by KSPC. KSPC shall source the balance of the total Contract Quantity from NPC ("NPC Contract Quantity"), including the necessary peaking power
6. **Salient features of the PSC.** KSPC shall construct, own, operate, manage and maintain a 2x100 MW Circulating Fluidized Bed Combustor (CFBC) Boiler Coal-Fixed base load power plant in the Municipality of Naga, Cebu (the "Project"), to supply power under the PSC and other similar contracts under the JSA.
   - a. **Term.** The PSC has a term commencing on the date of its effectivity and expiring after ten (10) years from the commencement of commercial operations of the second unit of the New Naga Coal Plant.
   - b. **Volume.** The contracted volume shall at least meet NOCECO's 2006 kWh consumption level. The annual Contract Quantity is 140,668,397 kWh, comprising of the KSPC Contract Quantity of 87,600,000 kWh and the NPC Contract Quantity of 53,068,397 kWh
   - c. **Sale and purchase of power.** The sale and purchase of the KSPC Contract Quantity shall be at a rate of **P4.30/kWh** (the "KSPC Base Price") subject to indexation on foreign exchange rates, fuel prices, local and international price indices. The sale and purchase of the NPC Contract Quantity shall be at average TOU rates of P4.30/kWh subject to indexation on foreign exchange rates, fuel prices, local and international price indices. There shall be annual nomination and reconciliation of the Contract Quantities
   - d. **WESM Membership.** The PSC requires NOCECO to become a direct member of the WESM. The market fees due to WESM shall be a pass-through cost to be shouldered by NOCECO.
7. **Long Run Avoidable Cost Pricing Methodology.** The pricing in the PSC uses the Long Run Avoidable Cost ("LRAC") methodology. The LRAC methodology is based on the notion of putting up a new plant where efficiencies are embedded. LRAC is guided by the Best New Entrant ("BNE") concept of a new and efficient generating plant entering the market
   - 7.1 **The average LRAC.** The average LRAC rate is the sum of the weighted average return on capital, fixed operating and maintenance costs, fuel costs, and variable operating and maintenance costs of a BNE, divided by the number of kilowatt-hours generated
   - 7.2 **The rationale behind LRAC.** LRAC benchmark rates ensure that offered rates are long-run oriented and are the most cost-competitive in comparison to other new entrants in the future. The rates are market-influenced and thus cheaper.
   - 7.3 **ERC adoption of LRAC.** In the Order dated 29 September 2003 in ERC Case No. 2003-291, the Commission adopted the LRAC methodology, to wit.

     "The determination of the LRAC components will be through the Best New Entrant (BNE) standard (based in viable plant mix), whereby the revenue requirements shall be based on the LRAC of the BNE reflecting the lowest total cost of an efficient new entrant generating plant in the country. The LRAC Methodology promotes efficiency in capital cost management while ensuring that the electricity remains viable for the longer term.

     x x x

     After thorough evaluation and analysis of the application and pursuant to Section 4 of the Rule 3 of the IRR of RA 9136, NPC and PSALM are hereby granted a provisional authority to impose revised generation charges using the LRAC methodology for the Luzon, Visayas and Panay/Bohol Grids."
8. **Sources of Funds/Financial Plans.** KSPC will obtain a debt facility from international lending institutions and/or other commercial banks. The equity investment will be sourced from KEPHILCO and SPC.
   - 8.1 **Project Cost.** The project cost is estimated at US$416,479,000.00, the components of which are as follows

Cost Components	Amount in US$ (000)	Description
Hard Cost		
EPC	272,314	Cost of engineering, design, procurement, and construction
EVAT	32,678	Import and Input VAT
Contingency	10,893	4% of EPC Cost
Owner's Cost	24,148	Expenses during construction period, incl. payroll, office equipment, rent, commissioning and start-up, etc
Land Lease	4,104	Land lease for plant site.
Sub Total	344,136	
Soft Cost		
IDC and Financing Fees	53,129	Capitalized interest during construction and financing fees
Financing Exp & Advisor s Fees	7,905	Legal, technical, and financial advisory fees and DST and mortgage registration
Insurance	2,557	Owner-provided insurance during construction
Escalation	2,332	Certain cost subject to inflation (3.4%/annum)
Working Capital	6,421	Initial working capital estimated 2 months of O&M and fuel cost
Sub Total	72,343	
Total Project Cost	416,479	

   - 8.2 **Debt/Equity Ratio.** The debt-equity ratio for the Project shall be 70:30. Seventy percent (70%) of the total Project cost will be sourced from lenders

The preliminary financing plan is as follows

Facility	Amount in US$ (000)	%
Equity Contribution	124,944	30.0%
ECA Loan Tranche A	225,000	54.0%
ECA Clean Tail Tranche B	11,250	2.7%
CP Bank Loan Tranche C	55,285	13.3%
Total	416,479	100.0%

The balance of thirty percent (30%) will be sourced through capital from KEPHILCO and SPC. KEPHILCO shall invest US$74,968,400 or 60% of the equity; SPC shall contribute US$49,977,600 or 40%. The Project shall be financed through project financing. In the event that project financing may not be availed of, Korea Electric Power Corp. ("KEPCO"), the parent company of KEPHILCO, may extend corporate financing subject to a guarantee fee equivalent to 2.5% of the amount financed

   - 8.3 **Annual Interest.** The breakdown of interests for the different loans are as follows:

Facility	Total in US$ (000)	Annual in US$ (000)	Years
ECA Loan Tranche A	125,810	10,484	12
ECA Clean Tail Tranche B	7,108	592	12
CP Bank Loan Tranche C	12,116	3,029	4
Total	145,033	14,105	

   - 8.4. **Computation of Return on Investment/ Weighted Average Cost of Capital.** The average Return on Investment ("ROI") is 14.8% and the Weighted Average Cost of Capital ("WACC") is 14.56%. The WACC is used for the computation of the Long-Run Avoidable Cost ("LRAC")
9. **Purchased Power Rate.** Under the PSC, NOCECO shall pay KSPC a generation charge calculated by applying the KSPC Base Price of P4.30/kWh to the KSPC Contract Quantity and the NPC TOU Rates, which shall be at an average of P4.30/kWh, to the NPC Contract Quantity, exclusive of VAT, other applicable taxes, fees and charges. The fee formulae of the PSC are as follows

$$GC_{month} = K + N + R + AE$$

GC_{month} = the generation charge or Monthly Payment;
K = KSPC Generation Charge for the month;
N = NPC Generation Charge for the month;
R = Replacement Power Charge for the month;
AE = Alternate Energy Charge for the month;

$$K = \sum_{i=26}^{n25}\sum_{j=1}^{24}\left((KHCQ_{ij} - RPQ_{ij} \times \alpha - AEQ_{ij} \times \beta) \times PK\right) \times K_{adj}$$

Where
$KHCQ_{ij}$ = KSPC HCQ for the relevant day i and relevant hour j of the Billing Month, kW
RPQ_{ij} = Replacement Power for the relevant day i and relevant hour j of the Billing Month, kW
AEQ_{ij} = Alternate Energy for the relevant day i and relevant hour j of the Billing Month, kW
P_K = KSPC Price, P/kWh
K^{adj} = KSPC Price adjustment for the month
$n25$ = means up to the 25th day of the current month
i = represents the relevant day of the Billing Month
J = represents the relevant hour of the trading day

If:

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n}\sum_{j=1}^{24} RPQ_{kj} \le \text{Planned Outage, then } \alpha = 1$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n}\sum_{j=1}^{24} RPQ_{kj} > \text{Planned Outage, then } \alpha = 0$$

Where:
k = represents the relevant day of the contract year
j = represents the relevant hour of the trading day

And

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n}\sum_{j=1}^{24} AEQ_{kj} \le \text{Allowed Forced Outage, then } \beta = 1$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n}\sum_{j=1}^{24} AEQ_{kj} > \text{Allowed Forced Outage, then } \beta = 0$$

$$\sum_{i=26}^{n25}\sum_{j=1}^{24} (NHCQ_{ij} \times Pn) \times N_{adj}$$

Where:
$NHCQ_{ij}$ = NPC HCQ for the relevant day i and relevant hour j of the Billing Month, kW
Pn = NPC TOU Rate, P/kWh
N_{adj} = NPC Price adjustment for the month

$$R \sum_{i=26}^{n25}\sum_{j=1}^{24} (RPQ_{ij} \times \alpha \times Pr) \times N_{adj}$$

Where:
RPQ_{ij} = Replacement Power for the relevant day i and relevant hour j of the Billing Month, kW
P_r = Replacement Power TOU Rate, P/kWh
N_{adj} = NPC Price adjustment for the month

$$AE = \sum_{i=26}^{n25}\sum_{j=1}^{24} (AEQ_{ij} \times \beta \times LMP_{GN})$$

Where:
AEQ_{ij} = Alternate Energy for the relevant day i and relevant hour j of the Billing Month, kW
LMP_{GN} = locational marginal price at generator node, P/kWh

10. The KSPC Base price and the NPC price shall be subject to adjustments based on fuel cost foreign exchange and local and foreign consumer price indices.

RATE IMPLICATIONS OF THE POWER SUPPLY AGREEMENT

The following table shows impact of the PSC on the generation rates paid by NOCECO once the New Naga Coal Plant commences commercial operations.

GENCO CHARGES / BILLING PARTICULARS	Current NPC Rate (as of May 2007) Rate, P/kWh	NPC Filing in 2004 Rate, P/kWh	Proposed KSPC Rate (by 2010) Rate, P/kWh
I. Generation Charge			
1. Generation Charge - TOU Energy	2.9124		4.30
2. Franchise & Benefits to Host Communities Taxes (FBHC), P/kWh	0.0177		0
II. Deferred Accounting Adjustments (DAA)			
1a. 7th GRAM DAA	0.0157		0
1b. 6th ICERA DAA	0.1679		0
Total Amount before VAT	3.1137	4.5887	4.3000
III. 12% VAT of Non-renewable Energy Gen Charge	0.0609		0.516
Renewable Energy Mix 83.69%			
Non-renewable energy mix - 16.31%			
10% VAT of VATable GRAM and ICERA	0.01636		0
Total Monthly Power Rate	3.1930		4.8160

11. It will be noted that the NPC generation rate indicated in the above table is the current or 2007 rate. On the other hand, the proposed KSPC price will apply beginning 2010. In comparing the above rates, the expected increase in the cost of generation from 2007 to 2010 must be considered.
12. The KSPC Base Price of P4.30/kWh is subject to adjustments based on fuel cost, foreign exchange and local and foreign consumer price indices. The said price was derived using the LRAC method, wherein the capital equipment and fuel supply underwent international competitive selection. For the above computation, the reference fuel price used is US$31.12/MT and the reference foreign exchange rate is P50/1US$.
13. Under the PSC, the said price, NOCECO shall pay a generation charge calculated by applying NPC TOU rates, which shall be at an average of P4.30/kWh.
14. More importantly, most of the NPC plants providing the present supply are already beyond their useful life of twenty five (25) years and are deteriorating. Power supply conditions in the Visayas area will reach a critical level as early as 2008. The New Naga Coal Power Plant will greatly alleviate a supply shortage by providing much needed stable and adequate supply of electricity.

The Commission has set the application for initial hearing, pre-trial conference, and evidentiary hearing on the following dates

DATE, TIME & VENUE	PARTICULARS
1. July 30, 2007 (Monday) at two o'clock in the afternoon (2:00 P.M.) at the NOCECO Conference Hall, Kabankalan, Negros Occidental.	1. Jurisdictional hearing, pre-trial conference and expository presentation
2. July 31, 2007 (Tuesday) at nine o'clock in the morning (9:00 A.M.) at the same venue.	2. Evidentiary Hearing (Reception of evidence and presentation of witnesses)

All persons who have an interest in the subject matter of the proceeding may become a party by filing, at least five (5) days prior to the initial hearing and subject to the requirements in the ERC's Rules of Practice and Procedure, a verified petition with the Commission giving the docket number and title of the proceeding and stating (1) the petitioner's name and address, (2) the nature of petitioner's interest in the subject matter of the proceeding, and the way and manner in which such interest is affected by the issues involved in the proceeding; and (3) a statement of the relief desired

All other persons who may want their views known to the Commission with respect to the subject matter of the proceeding may file their opposition to the application or comment thereon at any stage of the proceeding before the applicants conclude the presentation of its evidence. No particular form of opposition or comment is required, but the document, letter of writing should contain the name and address of such person and a concise statement of the opposition or comment and the grounds relied upon

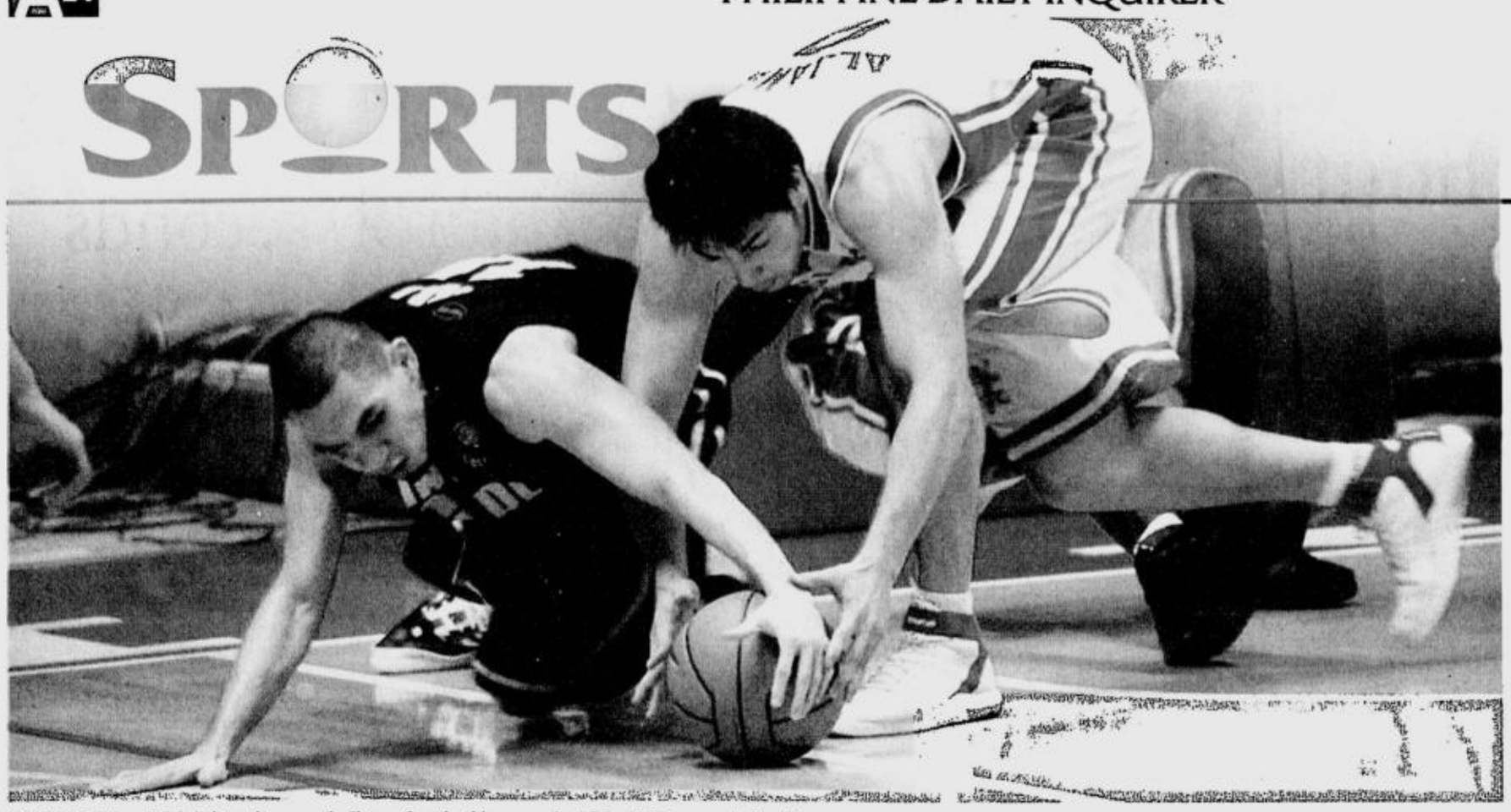
All such persons who may wish to have a copy of the application may request the applicants, prior to the date of the initial hearing, that they be furnished with a copy of the application. The applicants are hereby directed to furnish all those making such request with copies of the application and its attachments, subject to reimbursement of reasonable photocopying costs. Likewise, any such person may examine the application and other pertinent records filed with the Commission during the usual office hours.

WITNESS, the Honorable Chairman, RODOLFO B. ALBANO, JR., and the Honorable Commissioners, ALEJANDRO Z. BARIN, MARIA TERESA A.R. CASTAÑEDA, and JOSE C. REYES, Energy Regulatory Commission, this 5th day of July, 2007 at Pasig City.

(Sgd.) FRANCIS SATURNINO C. JUAN
Executive Director III

(PDI--July 12 & 18, 2007)

SPORTS



YOUSIF Aljamal (right) took care of offense for the Lions against Martin Urra and the Blazers. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Lions, Knights bloat list of NCAA victims via routs

GAMES TOMORROW (*The Arena*)
2 p.m.—Mapua vs San Sebastian (Srs)
4 p.m.—Jose Rizal vs Perpetual (Srs)

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THERE'S A LITTER OF TATTERED teams strewn all over the path left by steam-rolling squads San Beda and Letran. St. Benilde and Perpetual joined the rising body count yesterday.

With Sam Ekwe back wreaking havoc on the boards and Ogie Menor and Yousif Aljamal creating the damage in the offensive end, the Red Lions butchered the Blazers, 87-65; for their fourth straight win in the NCAA men's basketball at The Arena.

Letran matched the Red Lions' record with the same impunity, leaning on Dino Daa's 15 points and 25 rebounds for a 68-52 rout of Perpetual that gave the Knights also a 4-0 slate.

St. Benilde managed to stay in the game in the first half, outscoring San beda, 27-21, through the outside shots of Kris Robles, Martin Urra Jr., Kris Aldover and Christian Cabatu.

But the Red Lions tightened their defenses as rookie guard Garvo Lanete made life miserable for Blazers top gun Paolo Orbeta and limited the St. Benilde top gunner to just four points, allowing the Lions to cruise the rest of the way.

It was St. Benilde's third straight defeat for a 1-4 record.

"This game is about making stops," said San Beda coach Frankie Lim. "We need to make key defensive stops to make our offense look good."

San Beda, which last year registered a 13-1 record in the eliminations, will go on a nine-day break before facing San Sebastian on July 20.

Letran's win was a blowout from start to finish as the Altas' best showing in the game was when they held the Knights to nine third-quarter points to close in at 46-39.

But Letran came back strongly in the payoff period, scoring 22 points compared to Perpetual's 13 markers, on sorties by Daa, Rey Guevarra and Alvyn Cabonce, who scored four points each in that quarter.

Perpetual fell to 1-3.

Ekwe had a season-high 22 rebounds and three blocks for San Beda. His control of the boards allowed Menor to cruise in transition on the way to 23 points and eight boards. Aljamal added 20 for the Lions.

The 6-foot-8 Nigerian Ekwe, who missed the last game for kicking a fellow player, also had a two-handed slam dunk that gave the Red Lions a 65-49 advantage 1:28 left in the third quarter.

Cabatu split his charities off a foul by Dave Marcelo to push the Blazers to within 47-49, 7:43. But that proved to be the final stand for St. Benidle as the Lions' big men took charge.

The scores

First Game

SAN BEDA 87—Menor 23, Aljamal 20, Ekwe 15, Marcelo 8, Gamalinda 8, Hermida 5, Tecson 4, Lanete 2, Maggay 2, Escobal 0, Tirona 0.

ST. BENILDE 65—M. Urra Jr. 11, Cabatu 10, Aldover 9, Layug 9, Robles 8, Morial 5, Manlapaz 4, Orbeta 4, Johnston 2, Cadiz 2, Porras 1, David 0, Sevilla 0, D. Urra 0, Montecastro 0.

Quarters: 26-17, 47-44, 65-56, 87-65

Second Game

LETRAN 68—Daa 15, Faundo 15, Jazul 8, Guevarra 8, Cabonce 7, Latonio 5, Del Rosario 3, Melegrito 3, Dangcal 2, Reposar 2, Gutilban 0, Ranises 0, C. Foronda 0, J. Foronda 0.

PERPETUAL 52—Kong 13, Reyes 11, Lee 8, Ynion 6, Dysam 6, Balboa 4, Liaz 2, Febrian 2, Manuel 0, Salanga 0.

Quarters: 18-10, 37-26, 46-39, 68-52

Three seek UAAP lead; ladies hoops get going

WHILE SCOUTING THE OPPOSITION, UNIversity of the East coach Dindo Pumaren jotted down the names of two National University players on his watch list.

"NU is a different team this year, we really have to prepare against them," said Pumaren after watching the NU Bulldogs edge Far Eastern University in overtime, 73-70, in the UAAP season opener.

"(Joseph) Lingao-Lingao and (Edwin) Asoro played so well, we have to find ways to defend those two."

Even Manny Dandan, the only coach to lead NU to the Final Four in 2001, has so much faith in his reformed Bulldogs, who dispute the early lead against the Warriors today.

"I'm pretty confident with our match up against UE," he said. "Hopefully if the boys are consistent with their positive actions inside the court, things will be okay for us."

Both teams will shoot for their second straight victory in the men's basketball competition at 2 p.m. at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

STANDINGS	W	L
La Salle	1	0
UE	1	0
NU	1	0
Ateneo	1	0
UST	0	1
Adamson	0	1
FEU	0	1
UP	0	1

GAMES TODAY
(*Ninoy Aquino Stadium*)
2 p.m.—UE vs NU (Srs)
4 p.m.—UP vs Ateneo (Srs)

Ateneo will also try to build on the momentum of an opening-day victory when it takes on the University of the Philippines at 4 p.m.

"Our offense was pretty bad (against Adamson); luckily, our defense held up," said coach Norman Black minutes after the Eagles outlasted the Falcons, 69-63, in overtime last Sunday.

"It's better to have this type of game early. Obviously we have a lot of work to do. We just have to wait who's going to step up."

Pumaren, in contrast, was pleased with the balanced effort his Warriors showed in ripping University of Santo Tomas, 73-60.

Meanwhile, Tin Alon-Alon and Angeli Gloriani teamed up for 50 points to lead the La Salle Lady Archers to a 62-52 triumph over the UE Amazons at the start of women's action yesterday at the FEU Gym.

Adamson pummeled NU, 74-59, while UP nipped 2006 runner-up FEU, 44-42, for the early lead in women's play. *Jasmine W. Payo*

The scores:

First Game (Women's)

LA SALLE 62—Alon-Alon 26, Gloriani 24, Yamamoto 6, Dimaporo 2, Hernandez 2, Nierras 2, Ocampo 0, Sancho 0, Ojeda 0.

UE 52—Resultay 21, Lopez 12, Marzan 7, Villanueva 5, Manabat 4, Abanilla 3, Macao 0, Demafelis 0.

Quarters: 16-23, 34-27, 50-37, 62-52

Second Game (Women's)

ADAMSON 74—Tan 13, Sandel 12, Almazan 11, Buendia 10, Tecson 10, Salvana 6, Carpo 6, Bernardo 5, Lim 1, Verzosa 0, Bunao 0, Geronimo 0, Malaya 0.

NU 59—Mejia 25, De Gomas 12, E. Ramos 7, R. Ramos 7, Laquindanum 3, Mandap 3, Meneses 2, R. Santos 0, C. Santos 0, Letigio 0, Cudal 0, Batnag 0.

Quarters: 19-11, 34-30, 56-41, 74-59

Changes in LGU leadership stall grassroots sports plan

By June Navarro

THE CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP AMONG LOcal government units has stalled the grassroots development strategy of the Philippine Olympic Committee.

POC chair Robert Aventajado announced recently that the Bicol-Southern Luzon qualifying of the Philippine Olympic Festival was shelved after newly elected officials unseated the previous administration of the LGUs within the region.

Established as the search vehicle of the Olympic body for potential national athletes, the second leg of the POF originally scheduled within the month was moved to Oct. 15-21 with Rizal province as host.

Aventajado said majority of the provinces in the Bicol-Southern Luzon area has a new set of elected officials, whom POF organizers have yet to strike a deal in terms of commitment for the nationwide multi-event gathering.

"If we push through with the second leg, a lot of LGUs might not make it because their officials are new," said Aventajado.

"As a result, we decided to move it to a later date. I believe it's a good move since it will give more athletes a chance to compete," he added.

At the same time, Aventajado noted that organizers would have a longer time to spruce up the venues of the tournament.

Orcollo posts 5th straight pool win

FILIPINO ACE DENNIS ORCOLlo crushed Nick Van Den Berg of the Netherlands, 100-1, and Jerry Trantola of the United States, respectively, to hike his win streak to five and grab the Group 2 lead in the 007 Predator World Straight Pool Championship yesterday at the Hilton Hotel in East Brunswick, New Jersey.

Assured of a slot in the round of 32, Orcollo's remaining foes in the elimination stage are Americans Dennis Hatch and Stuart Mattana.

Orcollo earlier beat Tony Rodriguez, 100-17, and Peter Burrows, 100-21, and Craig Riley, 100-26.

Van Den Berg, third placer in the 2007 World Pool Masters in Holland, suffered his first loss in six matches.

Another Filipino entry, Warren Kiamco, bowed to Radoslaw Babica of Poland, 100-55. *Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

Make your country proud overseas, Filipino Worker!

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER JOB Market
OVERSEAS CAREER EXPO 2007
JULY 16 & 17, 2007
MUSIC HALL, SM MALL OF ASIA

Join the country's modern-day heroes, our beloved Overseas Filipino Workers, and start exploring career opportunities abroad, with the Inquirer Job Market Overseas Career Expo 2007!

Meet various established organizations in this major two-day event brought to you by the country's most read and most trusted recruitment tool.

SMART LiBRe JOB Market LANDBANK GODSPEED DZRH

www.koreanair.com
Excellence in Connection
Enjoy the Best First Class Service in the World
Excellence in Flight
KOREAN AIR
Reservation Center, Manila: 893-4909

Website: www.inquirer.net/business

BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Text us your feedback: Inquirer biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph

12M SANDOSENANG MILYONARYO!
Every P300 = 1 purchase entry
For more info, text Petron to 2366 or log on to www.petronfuelsuccess.com. Dali, sali na!
Per DTI-BCR Permit No. 1744, Series of 2007. Promo duration is from May 7 - Sept. 6, 2007

Direct foreign investments down 4.8%

BSP sees reversal with improving economy

By Daxim L. Lucas

INFLOWS OF FOREIGN direct investments into the country slowed down significantly in the months leading to last summer's national and local elections as investors adopted a wait-and-see attitude, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

However, the central bank said it fully expected investment inflows to resume their uptrend following the generally orderly conduct of national elections last May.

Documents from the BSP showed that net foreign direct investments from January to April reached only $754 million, or 4.8-percent lower than the figure reported in the same period last year.

Foreign direct investments are corporate funds used to set up or expand business operations locally and are generally considered to be more reliable than short-term portfolio investments

DIRECT/ B2

SPECIAL REPORT

RP stronger, wiser a decade after crisis /B6

BSP 'comfortable' with present interest rates

NO SHARP INCREASES ARE EXPECTED IN the cost of commercial borrowing for the rest of the year after the central bank suggested that any shift in monetary policy would come in the form of finely tuned adjustments rather than broad changes in interest rates.

Speaking to reporters Tuesday night, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor Amando M. Tetangco Jr. reiterated that he was satisfied with how the last two monetary policy adjustments have encouraged more bank lending while keeping the rate of price increases benign.

"We are in a comfortable position right now," he said, describing the BSP's current stance as "neutral." The central bank's policy-making Monetary Board is meeting today to decide on interest rate policy with most market watchers expecting no adjustments.

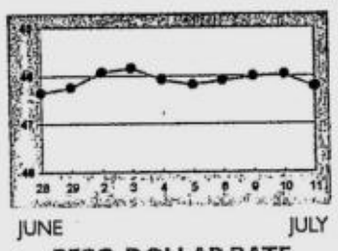
Earlier this year, the BSP implemented a so-called "tiering scheme"—a de facto rate cut—by paying progressively lower rates on banks' large overnight deposits with the central bank. The move was meant to encourage greater commercial lending.

Over the summer, however, red hot liquidity growth in the financial system prompted the central bank to offer higher yields to government financial institutions choosing to park their funds with the BSP—a move meant

BSP/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱46.21 = $1

As of 5 p.m., July 11, 2007

¥121.24 = $1

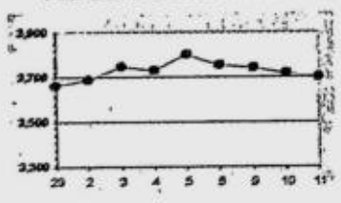
As of 5 p.m., July 11, 2007

GOLD: $660.00-660.50

per ounce Hong Kong, July 10, 2007

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Shares close lower

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.45-PERCENT lower yesterday as Wall Street's slide gave investors another excuse to cash in on recent gains, dealers said.

Investors shied away from most blue chips and bought up shares in fuel products retailer Phoenix Petroleum, which surged nearly 43 percent on its first day of trading.

The composite index lost 16.74 points to 3,704.22, off the day's low of 3,686.98. The all-share index fell 11.98 points to 2,383.05.

Of the 169 stocks that were traded, 66 retreated and 54 advanced, while 49 were unchanged as 5.1 billion shares worth P5.3 billion ($114.94 million) changed hands.

The local currency traded at 46.116 to the dollar.

"Today's trading was influenced by a big drop on Wall Street overnight, but the market has seen support at the 3,700-point level," said Rommel Macapagal of Westlink Global Equities.

"We're now trying to find a strong base after we hit new record highs last week and as we prepare for the next push," he added.

SM Investments, the second largest

SHARES/ B4

(from left) PNB OFW Product Management Group FVP and Head Patricia N. Tan, PNB Global Operations Sector EVP Anthony Q. Chua, PNB President and CEO Omar Byron T. Mier, GXI President Rizza Maniego-Eala, GXI Financial & Gov't Services Head Paolo J. Baltao

PNB Expands Its Remittance Services with GCash

Philippine National Bank (PNB), one of the leading commercial banks in the country and a pioneer in the Philippine remittance industry, recently sealed an agreement with G-Xchange, Inc. (GXI), a subsidiary of Globe Telecom and a pioneer in m-commerce, for the pay out of PNB overseas remittances in the growing number of GCash outlets all over the country.

Powered by GCash's newly launched Advise and Pay service, this agreement further expands PNB's remittance pay out channels bringing greater convenience to beneficiaries of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) for they can now claim their remittances in more locations nationwide. OFW beneficiaries do not need to rush anymore to PNB branches which are mostly open during weekdays. Instead, they can go to GCash outlets like pawnshops, rural banks, and business centers or exchange counters in malls, which are closer to them and are open even after banking hours.

"We wish to expand our presence not only by setting up branches overseas but also to establish local partners who can help us transmit funds at the quickest possible time," PNB President Omar Byron Mier said.

To assist the OFW beneficiaries, they can call the GCash Hotline (dial 2882 from any Globe Handyphone or TM mobile phone or 02-7392882 from any landline) for the nearest GCash outlet participating in the Advise & Pay service or for any inquiries they may have.

"We are now looking at it in terms of the family," Patricia Tan, PNB's Head for OFW Product Management said. "Apart from making sure that you are servicing the varying lifestyles of Filipinos overseas, you also need to have the same service agreement with the beneficiaries in terms of them getting the money as fast and as convenient as possible."

"Partnerships like this enable us to better serve our clients," Mier mentioned. "We want to make their transactions with the bank as hassle-free as possible."

Boasting of 91 years in the industry, PNB has a deep understanding of what the Filipinos need. Over the years, the bank has developed a very good franchise in the international sphere and has therefore seen the evolution of Filipino migrant workers.

"We know their demands so we have a basis for developing products and services that cater to their needs," Mier added.

"The very strength of GCash revolves around remote payments. At its core, our platform was built to benefit both international and domestic remittances. We have continuously enhanced ways to ensure that GCash increases its ability to benefit the welfare of overseas Filipinos and their beneficiaries," GXI President Rizza Maniego-Eala said. "Together with Globe Telecom and our partners, we will continue to innovate and develop services which are not only attuned to the needs of our OFWs but also provide them the peace of mind and comfort around the security of their hard-earned remittances as they strive far away from home."

Supplementing its more than 100 operational branches abroad, this tie-up catalyzes PNB's strength as the bank with the largest local and overseas remittance distribution network for OFWs and their beneficiaries.

"We can proudly say that we are now located in different areas," Mier concluded. "This partnership made us overwhelmingly more accessible to our clients."

(seated L-R): PNB OFW Product Management Group FVP and Head Patricia N. Tan, PNB Global Operations Sector EVP Anthony Q. Chua, PNB President and CEO Omar Byron T. Mier, GXI President Rizza Maniego-Eala, GXI Financial & Gov't Services Head Paolo J. Baltao
(standing L-R): PNB OFW Product Mgt Group SAVP Elise Alegre, PNB IBORS Central Support Group FVP Rodel C. Bicol, PNB OFW Product Manager Joel A. Talosig, GXI Business Development Head Martin Garcia

PNB GCASH POWER TO THE PEOPLE! TM Pinakamaganda Mobile ang lakas mo sa Globe

SEC of it all

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

PSSST, LISTEN UP, GUYS: SOMEBODY high up in the SEC tried and failed—and miserably so—to sabotage yesterday's hot IPO listing of Phoenix Petroleum.

Phoenix was the first oil company to go public since the oil industry was deregulated some nine years ago, and yet our hero in the SEC wanted to ruin the IPO by leaking to media a mere "letter" to the commission that was supposedly damaging to Phoenix.

Well, the Phoenix IPO closed at P12.75 a share yesterday, gaining some 30 percent from the offering price of P9.80 each.

I don't know if it tells us something about the credibility of the SEC.

Anyway, the letter reportedly came from a company called Oilink International, owned by a certain Paul Co, who operates the "Unioil" gas stations.

News reports (not in INQUIRER) said that Phoenix in effect lied to the SEC, since the company declared "no material legal proceedings pending" against it.

Quoting the Oilink letter to the SEC, the reports claimed that Oilink had a pending court case against Phoenix.

That was not true!

If anything, a court case involving Oilink seems to be remotely connected to Phoenix, simply because it also involves one of the stockholders of Phoenix called Udenna .

But still, it was not Oilink that sued Udenna. It was the other way around: Udenna sued Oilink.

What Paul Co and company claimed in the letter to the SEC was Oilink's "counterclaim" to the complaints of Udenna.

From what I hear, the court already dismissed Oilink's counterclaim—with finality, okay!

Now, why did the SEC official have to leak the letter to media? It was, after all, only a freaking letter, something that every bum could write and send to the SEC.

And why did Oilink, if it were serious at all, only write the SEC a letter. You know—no sworn statement and all that! Why did Paul Co and company forget to write the letter sometime ago, waiting until the last minute when everything was set for the IPO listing of Phoenix?

In other places, it is called sabotage. What's more, the SEC was party to it! I know for sure that the straight-shooting SEC Chair Fe Barin does not condone such treachery.

From what I hear, somebody in Paul Co's group is related to somebody high up in the SEC.

***

Now where did I read about this Oilink?

The INQUIRER reported early this year that Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez was bugging his department to pursue the investigation of a certain tax evasion and smuggling case, involving some P320 million.

Surprise—the company was ... well, Oilink itself!

Also, from what I hear, the Bureau of Customs also filed a case to collect some P138 million in excise and *ad valorem* taxes, plus VAT, against—again—Oilink, and its mother firm Union Refinery Corp.

And the SEC thought it wise to act on even just a letter from a company like that?

***

Intrigues must be flooding the Palace ever since Gloriaetta, through a spokesperson, declared that everybody in her administration must resign.

According to an insider in this cute administration, the badmouthing is most intense these days.

One victim is SBMA chief Armand Arreza. Somebody supposedly got to Gloriaetta ahead of Arreza regarding the billion-peso smuggling of fuel at the Subic free port.

The fact is, it was Arreza who dug deep into smuggling modus operandi, featuring a firm owned by a certain "JL," who apparently has deep connections in SBMA.

Also, former newsman Phillip Evardone was booted out as head of the National Printing Office.

From what I heard, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye simply accepted right there and then Evardone's ... well, "courtesy resignation."

Evardone seems to be a collateral damage in that Malacañang turf war, featuring Samar Gov. Ben Evardone (the brother of Phillip), whom Gloriaetta appointed as media point man in the recent senatorial campaign of the Team Unity.

Unfortunately for Phillip, the Palace boys already had a media outfit in mind at that time, and the campaign was to be handled by a "communications consultant" (what a position!) that they also hired.

***

This letter comes from Insurance Commissioner Evangeline Escobillo:

"Your recent columns about Anchor Savings Bank were full of sarcasm, malice, insinuations and *inuendos* that have besmirched my reputation, raised questions about my integrity and caused considerable grief and stress to my family.

"The records show that I was constrained to file a damage suit against the bank to enforce a valid, legal and fair monetary claim due and owed me for services duly rendered for almost three decades. You must know that since the case is under litigation, your commentaries about the case are sub judice, constitute undue interference with the ongoing judicial proceedings and is punishable by contempt.

"The reason why media commentaries to an ongoing case are prohibited is well-settled jurisprudence. It is to curtail undue pressure on the court to decide on the basis of media influence and to prevent obstruction of justice. This is especially true with irresponsible journalism—your writings seem to suggest that this is where your journalistic tendencies lie.

"For the same reason, I am unfairly precluded from discussing the factual and legal merits of the case in public, a situation that you have clearly taken advantage of.

It is pity that your personal attacks are a continuing discredit to the Philippine Daily Inquirer, the good reputation of which you are sullying. Please be reminded of your duty to uphold the ethics of your profession and to check your motivations."

***

Ah, such a well-written lawyery piece!

NHA calls for stricter low-cost housing rules

Units should be limited to families willing to pay for them, official says

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY HAS proposed stricter rules on the granting of low-cost housing units to the poor.

Elizabeth Matipo, officer in charge of one of NHA's Kasiglahan Village mass housing projects, said that what the NHA wanted was for low-cost housing units to go only to those families willing to pay for them.

Those who are not willing to pay for the homes should not become beneficiaries, Matipo said.

Matipo said informal settlers up for relocation should be given the option to avail themselves of either low-cost housing that they will eventually pay for, or just be given money to start a business.

"Some of those relocated to low-cost housing sites do not appreciate what is given to them ... There are also those who have attitude problems, insisting that they should not pay for the houses because these should be for free," Matipo said.

Matipo explained that the houses were not free but that the government is only charging a minimal fee.

The reluctance of many settlers to pay for their new homes has contributed to the financial woes of government corporations involved in housing such as the NHA, she said.

She said that the NHA charges an average of only P250 a month for houses that the settlers can pay over 30 years.

"It is understandable for those that are newly settled to find difficulty paying, but many of those that have already adjusted (to their new community) and have found a regular source of income still do not want to pay," Matipo said.

She said that some 4,000 families in the NHA's Kasiglahan Village project in Montalban, Rizal owe the government an average of P30,000 each in housing dues.

This means that for the Kasiglahan Village project alone, the NHA already has some P120 million in bad loans.

The Kasiglahan Village project started in 1999 and houses former informal settlers from communities near the Pasig River, Payatas, San Juan and some areas in Quezon City.

The village has facilities including a daycare center, elementary and high school, put up with the help from the Asian Development Bank.

Matipo said that the NHA experiences the same financial problems in its other projects in Luzon, which partly explains its financial difficulties.

The NHA has been cited as one of the government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) that are heavily dependent on government subsidy.

The Department of Finance reported earlier that the national government gave P1.47 billion in subsidy to the NHA in 2006.

ERC names new wholesale electricity aggregator licensee

By Abigail L. Ho

IN PREPARATION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION of retail competition and open access, the Energy Regulatory Commission has given newly formed company iN2Power a wholesale aggregator license.

Incorporated last May 21, iN2Power is just the sixth firm to be given the authority to engage in the business of power generation, power trading and power supply to retail customers and end-users.

It can also supply power to distribution utilities and customers directly connected to the nationwide transmission grid.

The company's incorporation papers further state that it can bid for or acquire power generation and other power-related assets, facilities, concessions and contracts, as well as enter into power-related transactions either by itself or through joint ventures or partnerships.

In the supply sector, in particular, the company is positioning itself not only as a wholesale aggregator but also as a retail electricity supplier, with the intention of servin the supply needs of electric cooperatives, private utilities, local government-run utilities and bulk power users.

ERC chair Rodolfo Albano Jr. said the issuance of the sixth wholesale aggregator license was proof that the country's power sector was slowly evolving into a competitive regime.

"This also shows the high level of confidence that investors have in the Philippines, which is vital in the transformation of the electricity industry," he added.

Apart from iN2Power, other licensed wholesale aggregators are Trans Asia Oil and Energy Development Corp., First Cabanatuan Ventures Corp., Aboitiz Energy Solutions Inc., First Gen Energy Solutions Inc. and Angeles Power Inc.

Direct foreign investments ...

From page B1

in the local stock or bond markets.

The slowdown was most pronounced in April—the month immediately preceding the elections—when net inflows amounted to only $44 million, declining by 77 percent from the $193 million registered in April 2006.

The BSP said the figures were "lower compared to the net inflows in the same [period] last year as investors stayed on the sidelines ahead of the electoral exercise in May."

Opposition bets trounced administration candidates in the senatorial race, but retained control of the House of Representatives, insulating President Macapagal-Arroyo from impeachment and boosting the chances of continuity for her economic agenda.

According to the BSP, foreign equity in the first four months of 2007—net of repatriations—amounted to $738 million. This was 24-percent higher than the level posted in the same period last year.

The bulk of the investments came from the United States, Japan, Singapore, South Korea and the British Virgin Islands.

Industries which benefited from these inflows were manufacturing (electronics, health and chemical products), services (international courier, information technology development), mining, real estate, financial intermediation, agriculture and construction.

Meanwhile, the other capital account—consisting mainly of loans granted by head offices to their subsidiaries in the Philippines—reached $16 million, lower than last year's level following repayment by some subsidiaries of their maturing liabilities.

"The country's solid macroeconomic fundamentals and the credit outlook upgrade in June by the Japan Credit Rating Agency (JCRA) from stable to positive are expected to boost investor confidence in the economy in the months ahead, and promote greater inflows of foreign direct investment," BSP Governor Amando M. Tetangco Jr. said in a statement.

BSP 'comfortable' ...

From page B1

to stave off inflationary risks.

Tetangco's statements suggest that any adjustments moving forward would likely be biased in favor of tighter monetary policy, possibly in anticipation of the government's resurgent fiscal problems.

"We will review our monetary policy [today], including the tiering scheme," he said. Any move to abolish the tiering scheme would have the effect of nudging interest rates higher across the entire financial system.

Yesterday, the BSP chief pointed out that bank loans rose 12.1 percent in April, marking five months of credit expansion above the central bank's 10-percent growth target.

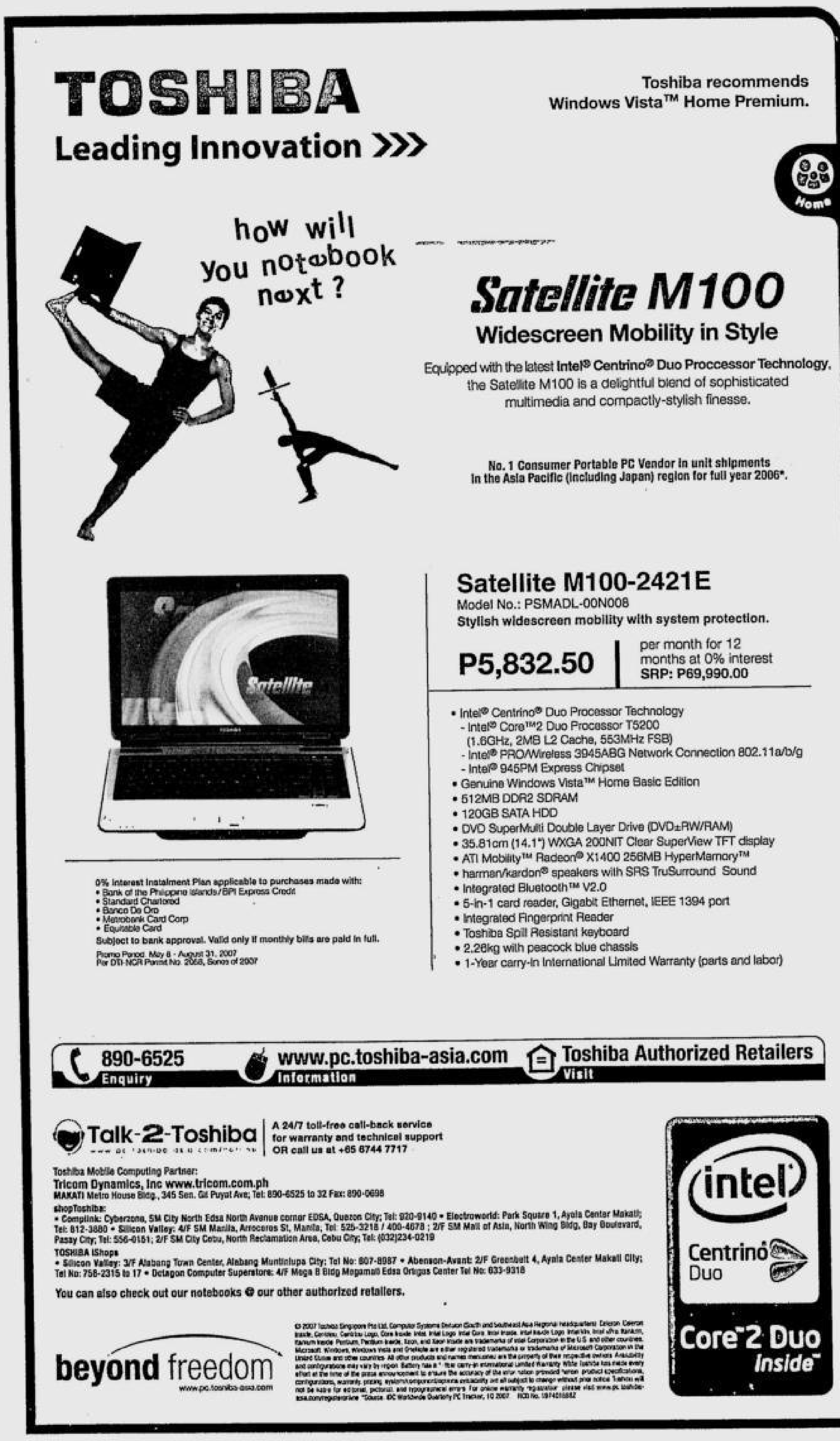
At the same time, Tetangco pointed out that liquidity growth across the economy, as measured by broad money supply indicators, has begun to slow down, after remaining stubbornly high in recent months.

"Our inflation outlook is benign," he said, adding that the central bank now expects the average inflation rate to come in between 3.3 and 3.8 percent for the year. At present, the average inflation rate for the first semester of 2007 stands at 2.63 percent.

The central bank chief acknowledged that the government's fiscal difficulties—brought by poor tax collections in the first half—pose a potential threat to the interest rate scenario.

Historically, missed tax collection targets have prompted the government to borrow more from the public by issuing more bonds, which in turn pushes interest rates higher as creditors demand higher yields to compensate for the bigger risk.

Tetangco said, however, that he was counting on the reassurance of the Department of Finance that the full-year budget deficit target would be met with the proceeds from the privatization of government assets. *Daxim L. Lucas*



Edsa Shangri-La spending P512M to upgrade hotel

Tax incentives granted to tourist facility modernization

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BOARD OF INVESTMENTS HAS APproved the granting of tax perks to two projects of Edsa Shangri-La Hotel & Resort Inc. worth a total of P512.1 million.

Edsa Shangri-La will refurbish a wing of its hotel at the Ortigas Center and put up a spa to cater to the wellness market.

BOI data show that Edsa Shangri-La is investing P385.63 million to modernize and upgrade its Garden Wing and the Horizon Club Lounge, which have a combined 192 rooms.

The upgrade involves the renovation and complete overhaul of the rooms and lounges with new furniture and fixtures, carpet, lighting and other facilities.

A separate private check-in system that would bypass the main lobby access would be installed for the Garden Wing, which would have a tropical theme, with the rooms offering amenities like in-room pay-per-view movies, facsimile and private phone line.

As for the Horizon Club Lounge, which include the top three executive floors of the wing, would be upgraded to offer still better accommodation, personalized service and "exclusive privileges tailor-fit" for guests.

This upgrade qualified for BOI incentives under the 2006 Investment Priorities Plan as a modernization project for a tourist accommodation facility.

The other project, worth P126.5 million, involves the operation of a hotel spa with 10 treatment rooms including two suites for couples with hydro room and outdoor terrace, two single suites, and six single rooms without spa bathing tubs.

According to Edsa Shangri-La, the spa would offer its signature Chi therapies that "assist the body's natural renewal" and are combined with exercise, stretching, massage, hydrotherapy, life enhancement programs and movement of the mind through relaxation and meditation."

The investment also covers additional amenities for guests, such as a spa bar for light refreshments and a meditation lounge.

The spa would be aimed at the high-end market and would be open to in-house and non-in-house guests of the hotel, whether locals or foreigners.

Called Chi Spa, the new facility would complement Edsa Shangri-La's new holistic life enhancement facility. It qualified for BOI incentives as an activity related to healthcare and wellness products and services.

100 MAKE YOUR ₱ GROW

OPEN A 5-YEAR PESO TIME DEPOSIT NOW!
EARN AS HIGH AS 6.25% INTEREST P.A. TAX FREE!

INVESTMENT	*INTEREST RATE
P 50,00 - 999,999	5.75%
P 1,000,000 - 4,999,999	6.00%
P 5,000,000 - UP	6.25%

* RATES MAY CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Looking after you.
Bank of Commerce
www.bankcom.com.ph

Call us at 812-0000 locals 2250 / 2439 / 2233 / 2465
Member: PDIC & Megalink. Deposits insured up to P250,000 per depositor.

Text Bkcom<yourname><your landline><your e-mail address> send to 2327 for Globe or 0917-8902327 for non-Globe users.

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS

MRT-7 project proponent rejects planned renegotiation

By Riza T. Olchondra

MRT-7 PROJECT PROPONENT UNIVERSAL LRT Corp. (ULC) has thumbed down the transport department's proposed renegotiation of the terms of its offer, saying the government should simply approve or reject its proposal after the Swiss challenge.

ULC is a consortium led by EL International Holdings, a member of the EL Group of Companies of Hong Kong under Eli Levin, also the main proponent of MRT-3.

Levin told the INQUIRER, "There are no more negotiations at this point. All the negotiations, which took two and a half years, were done before the Swiss challenge this year."

He made the remark in reaction to the transport officials' statement that "no challenger is no assurance that the original proponent of the $1.23-billion MRT-7 project will undertake the biggest infrastructure deal under the Arroyo administration."

ULC's proposed project was offered for a Swiss Challenge in accordance with the Build-Operate-Transfer Law last month but expected challengers Sumitomo Corp., World Chi Finance Group and Izumo Contractors did not submit any offer.

The transportation department committee in charge of the project will now submit the result to Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza, who will later recommend to the Cabinet-level Investment Coordination Committee (ICC) the course of action that will be undertaken on the project.

"Our expectation is that when the ICC convenes this year before the fourth quarter, it will either approve or disapprove the project. Of course the government has the prerogative to approve or disapprove."

This recommendation will then await the signature of President Macapagal-Arroyo. The $1.23-billion MRT-7 project is targeted for completion in 2012.

MRT-7 is 23 kilometers long with 14 stations connected to MRT-3 North Avenue station in Quezon City, traversing Commonwealth Avenue and Quirino Avenue extension up to San Jose del Monte, Bulacan. It will also have a 22-km access road, and a real estate component with SM Investments of retail giant Henry Sy.

CebuPac slashes fare to Bangkok

CEBU PACIFIC HAS REDUCED ITS YEAR-round Manila-Bangkok one-way "Go" fare to P2,499 beginning July 12, 2007.

This is equivalent to a 17-percent fare reduction from the current lowest "Go" fare offering of P2,999. The reduced one-way fare is 70 percent less than the lowest airfare of other airlines for this route. Fares are exclusive of applicable government taxes and surcharges.

"We started service to Bangkok in early December 2006 with four flights weekly and, owing to the strong demand for seats, we recently increased our flights to service this route daily. With the added capacity, we are now able to offer this year-round fares reduction," said Candice Iyog, CEB VP for marketing and product.

The Manila-Bangkok service operates daily using CEB's Airbus A319 aircraft. The flight departs from Manila at 10:45 p.m. and arrives in Bangkok at 12:50 a.m. the following day. The Bangkok-Manila flight leaves Bangkok at 1:35 a.m. and arrives in Manila at 5:40 a.m.

INSPIRE YOURSELF WITH A MORE CAPTIVATING RIDE. THE CITY COMES TO YOU WITH NEW ENHANCEMENTS AND BETTER FEATURES, ALL ENGINEERED TO CAPTURE A DRIVING EXPERIENCE AS REFINED AS IT IS EXCITING.

VOTED BY CONSUMERS TRUSTED BRAND 2007 PHILIPPINES GOLD

New CITY

Come and take part in our Open House at all Honda dealerships on July 13, 14, & 15, 2007 and experience first-hand all the new refinements of the New Honda City.

Visit any authorized dealers for details:

Metro Manila
Honda Cars Alabang — Tel No: (02) 807 7809, Fax No 809 5052
Honda Cars Kaosiyan, Inc. — Tel No (02) 366 5701, Fax No 361 8445
Honda Cars Makati, Inc. — Tel No (02) 852 4181, Fax No 852 1158
Honda Cars Pasig — Tel No (02) 634 2730, Fax No 637 2982
Honda Cars Quezon City, Inc. — Tel Nos. (02) 712 6850 to 61, Fax No. 732 8559
Honda Cars Shaw — Tel No.: (02) 717 1681, Fax No. 725 7673
Honda Cars Manila — Tel No (02) 562 4548, Fax No. 564 7336
Honda Cars Fairview — Tel Nos (02) 9352655, 9352617, Fax No. 9357864
Honda Cars Marikina — Tel Nos. (02) 9426202, 9560512, Fax No. 9423561

Provincial
Honda Cars Pangasinan, Inc. — Tel Nos (075) 5221488 to 89 Fax No (075) 5173739
Honda Cars Laguna, Inc. — Tel Nos (049) 5627713 to 14, Fax No (049) 5627712
Honda Cars Pampanga, Inc. — Tel No (045) 9635119, Fax No (045) 9635554
Honda Cars Cebu, Inc. — Tel No (032) 2313502, Fax No (032) 2314489
Honda Cars Negros Occidental — Tel No (034) 7078000, Fax No (034) 4411276
Honda Cars Davao, Inc. — Tel Nos. (082) 2217406, 2222171, Fax No. (082) 2217407
Honda Cars Mandaue — Tel. No.: (032) 4223708, Fax No: (032) 4223600
Honda Cars Cagayan De Oro — Tel Nos.. (088) 8584010 to 18, Fax No (088) 8584015
Honda Cars Tarlac, Inc. — Tel Nos (045) 9828002 to 05, Fax No (045) 9828007
Honda Cars Isabela, Inc. — Tel. No: (078) 6521245, Fax No: (078) 6521248
Honda Cars Gen. Santos, Inc. — Tel Nos (083) 5539756 to 57, Fax No (083) 3013109
Honda Cars Iloilo — Tel Nos. (033) 508-8400, 508-8522, Fax No (033) 329-7763

HONDA

Phoenix Petroleum gains 30%, closes at ₱12.75/share

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

DAVAO-BASED OIL FIRM PHOENIX Petroleum Philippines Inc., the first oil distributor to list on the stock exchange after 13 years, shot up 30 percent on its first trading day yesterday to close at P12.75.

Phoenix opened at a high of P14, a 42.86-percent gain from its initial public offer price at P9.80 a share. A total of 25.68 million shares valued at P337.12 million were traded yesterday.

Phoenix raised P284 million from its public offering this month. Including divesting shareholders, total proceeds amounted to P355 million, according to BDO Capital and Investment Corp. president Eduardo Francisco.

He said Phoenix generated about P4.5 billion in orders from local long-term fund managers, institutional investors as well as retail players.

About 25 percent of the company is now owned by the public after the initial public offer.

Powered by the company's IPO proceeds, Phoenix chief finance officer Teodoro Polinga said the company would spend P250 million over the next two years to put up new retail stations and expand its depot and terminal operations.

As of March, eight new Phoenix retail service stations have been completed or are under construction. Phoenix is also finalizing talks on the lease of two properties in Mindanao for use as oil depots and terminals.

The company is targeting a total of 50 retail stations by the end of this year and an additional 40 retail stations until 2010.

Phoenix estimates net earnings this year to grow to P144 million from P74.26 million in 2006. For 2008 and 2009, the company expects a net income of P200 million to P220 million, officials said.

Firm eyes Zambales mines

NIHAO MINERAL RESOURCES INTERNATIONAL Inc., formerly Magnum Holdings Inc., is planning to acquire mining rights covering 7,103 hectares of nickel property in Botolan and Iba, Zambales, subject to a financial audit.

Nihao executive director Francis Tan said the company aimed to leverage on its mineral expertise to build up world-class tenements in the country with strategic Chinese partners.

Last June 28, Nihao, which now trades under the symbol "Ni," secured approval from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to change its corporate name in line with the shift in business purpose to that of a mining and exploration firm.

Tan also said that the company was raising P700 million from a possible stock rights offering possibly in the second half of this year.

In a previous disclosure, the company said it would increase its authorized capital stock to P700 million from P100 million and conduct a stock right offer to comply with the capital requirements of the corporate regulators. *Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson*

CURRENCIES

July 11, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.727802	1.000000	45.9420
Japan	Yen	0.005973	0.008207	0.3770
United Kingdom	Pound	1.475400	2.027200	93.1336
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.093117	0.127943	5.8780
Switzerland	Franc	0.605090	0.831393	38.1959
Canada	Dollar	0.691827	0.950570	43.6711
Singapore	Dollar	0.479922	0.659413	30.2948
Australia	Dollar	0.626983	0.861475	39.5779
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.930663	2.652731	121.8718
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.194070	0.266652	12.2505
Brunei	Dollar	0.478345	0.657246	30.1952
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000081	0.000111	0.0051
Thailand	Baht	0.023365	0.032103	1.4749
UAE	Dirham	0.198160	0.272272	12.5087
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.374000	63.1243
Korea	Won	0.000791	0.001087	0.0499
China	Yuan**	0.096004	0.131909	6.0602
Argentina	Peso	0.234397	0.322061	14.7961
Brazil	Real	0.384024	0.527649	24.2413
Denmark	Kroner	0.134429	0.184706	8.4858
India	Rupee	0.018091	0.024857	1.1420
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.211724	0.290909	13.3649
Mexico	New Peso	0.067162	0.092281	4.2396
New Zealand	Dollar	0.566824	0.778816	35.7804
Norway	Kroner	0.125501	0.172438	7.9221
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012046	0.016551	0.7604
South Africa	Rand	0.104269	0.143266	6.5819
Sweden	Kroner	0.108936	0.149678	6.8765
Syria	Pound	0.014020	0.019264	0.8850
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.022223	0.030534	1.4028
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000339	0.000466	0.0214

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—July 10, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of July 10, 2007

Shares close lower

From page B1

Philippine company by market value, fell P12.50 to P427.50.

Globe Telecom, the country's second largest telecommunications company, retreated P35 to P1,350.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone or PLDT, the biggest company here by market value, was steady at P2,660.

Phoenix Petroleum ended at P12.75, off its highest level of P14, but 30.1 percent higher than its initial public offering price of P9.80.

"A" shares of brewer San Miguel was unchanged at P75 and its "B" shares fell 50 centavos to P82.50. *AFP*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 11, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	5.2	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	41,500
73	30.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	70.5	70.5	69.5	69.5	769,100
73.5	47.5	Bank of the Philippine Islands	70.5	70.5	70	70.5	1,489,700
935	630	China Banking Corp.	905	905	900	905	4,350
20.25	18.18	Citystate Savings Bank	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc	0.55	0.55	0.53	0.55	4,050,000
75.5	34	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	71	72	70	70	1,796,300
65	32.5	Philippine National Bank	64	64.5	64	64.5	182,300
68	38.5	Philippine Savings Bank	63.5	64.5	63.5	64.5	2,800
72	40	Philippine Bank of Communications	51	51	51	51	600
39.57	14.13	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	33	33.5	32.5	33	2,367,600
90	44	Security Bank Corp.	86.5	88	86.5	87.5	65,100
66	41.54	Union Bank of the Philippines	62	62.5	62	62.5	1,565,300
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.72	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	5	5	4.7	4.7	101,000
1.5	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	158,000
16	1.5	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	15	15.75	14	15.5	1,867,700
1.6	0.4	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.2	1.2	1,818,000
42	28	First Metro Investment Corp.	42	42	42	42	15,000
1,710.00	1,500.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,675.00	1,675.00	1,675.00	1,675.00	300
5	4.05	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.25	2,896,000
3.1	0.99	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8	11,000
1,005.00	211	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc	810	815	810	815	4,540
2,250.00	1,895.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,180.00	2,185.00	2,180.00	2,185.00	330
1.94	1.2	iVantage Corp	1.82	1.86	1.82	1.86	1,900,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
0.45	0.18	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.39	0.45	0.31	0.45	42,690,000
68	41.5	First Gen Corp.	67	67.5	67	67	1,264,500
92	41	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	88.5	88.5	87	87	1,827,000
13.75	7.5	Manila Water Co. Inc.	13.25	13.75	13.25	13.5	14,489,600
116	14.5	Manila Electric Co. "A"	106	107	106	106	100,510
118	23.25	Manila Electric Co. "B"	107	108	106	107	476,290
6.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	6.3	6.5	6.3	6.4	137,985,000
6	3.7	Petron Corp.	5.8	5.9	5.7	5.8	10,576,000
14	12.25	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	14	14	12.25	12.75	25,681,000
2.5	1.6	Salcon Power Corp.	2.22	2.22	2.22	2.22	11,000
1.9	0.91	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp.	1.58	1.58	1.5	1.56	1,585,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	2.85	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.9	6	5.8	5.8	169,000
2.95	1.88	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	2.3	2.3	2.24	2.24	126,000
2.75	1.24	CADP Group Corp.	2	2	2	2	1,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	70,000
61	30.5	Jollibee Foods Corp.	56	56	54	54.5	446,600
1.9	0.77	RFM Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.62	1.62	40,000
4.05	2.2	Roxas Holdings	2.7	2.7	2.65	2.65	63,000
80	61	San Miguel Corp. "A"	74.5	75	74.5	75	180,200
88	69.5	San Miguel Corp. "B"	83	83	81.5	82.5	607,300
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	17.75	18	17.75	18	1,159,600
0.55	0.19	Vitarich Corp.	0.43	0.49	0.42	0.46	8,910,000
		CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	1.43	EEI Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.6	1,063,000
9.2	4.3	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8	8	7.9	8	836,000
2	0.245	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc	1.68	1.7	1.64	1.7	1,485,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	1.42	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.3	5.3	1,605,000
1.34	0.8	Interphil Laboratories Inc. "A"	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	96,000
1.4	0.61	Interphil Laboratories Inc "B"	1.16	1.16	1.12	1.12	189,000
1.46	0.51	Mabuhay Vinyl Corp	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	14,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.44	0.0625	Picop Resources Inc	0.34	0.39	0.34	0.37	33,680,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	1.74	A. Soriano Corp.	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	5,000
0.17	0.023	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.135	0.12	0.135	170,470,000
1.28	0.18	APC Group Inc.	1.1	1.12	1.08	1.12	5,114,000
3.6	1.4	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.7	654,000
3.3	1.48	ATN Holdings Inc. "B"	2.65	2.85	2.65	2.85	250,000
0.018	0.0065	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	85,000,000
0.019	0.0065	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. "B"	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	11,000,000
9.7	4.85	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	8.7	8.9	8.7	8.8	5,229,000
0.021	0.007	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.018	831,700,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	6	6	5.9	6	18,331,000
1.38	0.47	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	609,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.42	2.44	2,008,000
8	0.8	Aries Prime Resources Inc.	6.7	6.7	6.5	6.5	11,000
590	308.33	Ayala Corp.	555	575	555	570	143,950
14.5	6.96	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	5,100
6.9	0.7	Balabac Resources & Hold'gs Co. Inc.	4.85	5	4.8	4.85	146,000
5.6	1.04	Benpres Holdings Corp.	5.2	5.4	5.1	5.4	6,462,000
10.25	3.25	DMCI Holdings Inc.	9.7	9.8	9.6	9.6	9,127,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.5	837,000
3.55	1.16	House of Investments Inc.	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	90,000
14.5	5.6	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	12	12.25	12	12.25	64,400
0.8	0.185	Medco Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.49	140,000
0.95	0.13	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	820,000
11.5	0.26	Multitech Investments Corp.	8.7	8.9	8.5	8.8	1,699,000
30	0.88	NiHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	24.25	25	23.5	24.25	1,073,700
5.4	1.2	PAL Holdings Inc.	4.9	4.9	4.75	4.75	303,000
0.115	0.009	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.0825	0.115	0.08	0.115	138,270,00
0.75	0.16	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.55	0.57	0.55	0.57	2,990,000
2.02	1.2	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	1,000
452.5	200.44	SM Investments Corp.	437.5	437.5	425	427.5	190,720
2.2	0.71	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	596,000
0.73	0.115	Sinophil Corp.	0.52	0.54	0.52	0.53	8,040,000
1.6	0.78	South China Resources Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	1,000
0.75	0.085	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.44	0.47	0.42	0.45	5,470,000
1.1	0.155	Zeus Holdings Inc	0.82	0.82	0.81	0.81	120,000
		PROPERTY					
2.16	0.78	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.68	1.68	1.66	1.66	729,000
1.06	0.3	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.8	0.82	0.78	0.78	1,000,000
19.25	9.58	Ayala Land Inc.	17.25	17.75	17.25	17.5	16,475,200
1.88	0.99	Belle Corp.	1.64	1.66	1.64	1.64	4,831,000
4.7	2.06	Cebu Holdings Inc.	4.4	4.5	4.3	4.5	253,000
0.86	0.26	Crown Equities Inc.	0.8	0.81	0.79	0.81	1,320,000
0.83	0.18	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.54	0.57	0.54	0.56	2,970,000
3.25	0.75	Edsa Properties Holdings Inc.	3	3	3	3	31,000
0.99	0.44	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.84	0.86	0.84	0.86	10,850,000
0.32	0.033	Ever Gotesco Resources & Hold'gs Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	9,830,000
1.38	0.38	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.14	1.14	1,988,000
2.44	0.99	Filinvest Land Inc.	2.1	2.1	2.06	2.08	53,657,000
0.41	0.07	Gotesco Land Inc. "A"	0.29	0.31	0.29	0.31	1,730,000
2.4	0.74	Keppel Philippines Properties Inc.	2.38	2.38	2.38	2.38	10,000
0.69	0.2	Kuok Phil. Properties Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	350,000
1.12	0.18	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.93	0.93	0.9	0.91	390,000
4.4	1.28	Megaworld Corp.	3.95	3.95	3.85	3.9	98,289,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.25	4.3	4.25	4.3	21,000
0.7	0.11	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.5	0.51	0.48	0.49	660,000
0.87	0.25	Philippine Realty & Holdings Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.63	0.64	8,190,000
23	10.5	Robinson Land Corp.	20.25	20.25	19.75	19.75	1,298,400
5.7	1.23	SM Development Corp.	5.3	5.5	5.2	5.5	1,625,000
13.25	5.92	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	12.5	13	12.5	12.75	14,310,200
1.34	0.51	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.9	0.92	0.9	0.92	2,820,000
0.36	0.06	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	1,470,000
7.4	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc	6.3	6.5	6.2	6.2	2,485,000
		MEDIA					
35	15.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	34.5	34.5	34	34.5	77,500
1.14	0.98	Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	12,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.16	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.54	1.54	1,485,000
1,445.00	900	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,370.00	1,370.00	1,335.00	1,350.00	101,390
2,820.00	1,790.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,640.00	2,660.00	2,625.00	2,660.00	83,760
7.9	3.2	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	7	7.2	7	7.2	2,872,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	14,950,000
12	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	10	10.25	10	10.25	19,000
10.5	2	IPVG Corp.	9.7	10.5	9.6	10	8,929,000
0.065	0.0274	ISM Communications Corp.	0.046	0.0575	0.046	0.055	509,000,000
29.5	5.5	Imperial Resources Inc. "A"	26.5	29.5	26.5	28	207,900
2.9	1.8	Ionics Inc.	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.2	115,000
0.185	0.04	Island Information & Technology Inc.	0.155	0.175	0.145	0.17	166,190,000
0.0725	0.027	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.0575	0.06	0.0575	0.06	382,200,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l Inc.	2.9	2.95	2.85	2.85	1,684,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
1.92	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	6,000
6.8	2.5	Asian Terminals Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	151,000
32	13.75	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	29	30.5	29	30	711,500
2.14	0.86	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc	2.02	2.06	2.02	2.02	235,000
2	0.8	Lorenzo Shipping Corp	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.8	12,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.26	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	3.55	3.6	3.55	3.55	370,000
6	2.16	Manila Jockey Club Inc.	5.2	6	5.2	6	14,000
4.55	2.8	Philippine Racing Club Inc.	4.3	4.3	4	4	105,000
0.98	0.18	Premiere Entertainment Prods Inc	0.68	0.75	0.68	0.7	2,700,000
1.2	0.42	Waterfront Philippines Inc	0.97	0.97	0.92	0.96	640,000
		EDUCATION					
3.7	2.65	iPeople Inc	3.25	3.25	3.2	3.2	92,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	1.9	Macroasia Corp.	5.5	6	5.5	5.6	10,984,000
17.25	13	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	15.25	15.5	15.25	15.25	273,900
30	9.9	Paxys Inc	23	23	22.5	23	1,587,400
		MINING					
0.018	0.0075	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.014	0.015	0.014	0.014	110,600,000
7.6	3.3	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	331,000
7.7	3.35	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.7	184,000
21.25	7.4	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	16	16	15.25	15.5	5,367,300
14.25	8.7	Benguet Corp. "A"	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	2,400
5	1.7	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	4.2	4.5	4.2	4.4	297,000
3.05	0.0713	Geograce Resources Philippines Inc.	2.8	2.9	2.7	2.85	34,927,000
0.35	0.215	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.28	1,500,000
0.42	0.225	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	1,280,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	105,900,000
0.041	0.019	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.033	0.033	0.033	0.033	76,100,000
0.024	0.008	Omico Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	307,100,000
6.4	3.15	Philex Mining Corp.	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.6	3,976,000
43	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	40	40.5	40	40	545,200
1.36	0.35	United Paragon Mining Corp.	1	1.1	1	1.08	3,302,000
1.8	0.52	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp	1.36	1.42	1.36	1.42	6,777,000
		OIL					
0.025	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A"	0.022	0.023	0.022	0.023	88,900,000
0.027	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B"	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.023	36,600,000
14.25	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp	10.75	10.75	10.25	10.5	309,800
0.028	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.023	142,000,000

BY INQUIRER RESEARCH SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK

UNIVERSITY OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT
with APASE and ISA INSTITUTE FOR SOLIDARITY IN ASIA

congratulates

Adamson University

for winning all three categories in

The 1st Corporate Social Responsibility Plan Competition

Eradicating Extreme Hunger and Poverty. Achieving Universal Primary Education.

Campus Tambayan: The PDI Campus Tour

The plan seeks to:

- address the decline of literacy and newspaper readership among the youth by conducting a "Free Reading Campaign" in 20 selected universities

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

REBIRTH: The Smart Choice

The plan seeks to:

- provide job opportunities for juvenile delinquents
- foster character formation, team dynamics, and technical know-how about the wireless industry among the beneficiaries and eventually hire them to work in Smart's wireless centers

SMART

Gabay Aral at Kooperatibang Handog ng OCLP

The plan seeks to:

- provide a literacy program for the urban poor children and the Muslim kids of San Juan through a :Read Aloud Teaching Methodology"
- to uplift the economic condition of the parents of the literacy program beneficiaries through a multi-purpose cooperative

ORTIGAS FOUNDATION, INC.

Every Filipino has a vision for our country. For students of the University of Asia and the Pacific - School of Management and APASE (a youth organization that trains future business leaders), they envisioned the integration of social responsibility in the lives of the Philippines' business practitioners. This goal, infused with their education from the University, gave birth to the 1st CSR Plan Competition. Founded as the Center for Research and Communication (CRC), the University hosted this competition to fulfill its mission as a think tank of conducting research on People Development or the commitment to enable the marginalized sector to help themselves.

This youth-led event is the first of its kind in the country. It challenged teams from various universities to create socially-minded CSR programs for host corporations with the aim of developing the students' competency through planning a CSR project and to sincerely see the project accomplished.

With the vision of integrating CSR in the lives of young business leaders, and with the expertise of UA&P's Center for Social Responsibility and our Institutional partner, the Institute for Solidarity in Asia (ISA), we are ready to move on. The CSR Plan Competition is now poised to train the next batch of ethical business leaders.

University of Asia and the Pacific - website: www.csr.uap-apase.org - email: uapcsrplan@uap.edu.ph - telephone: 637-0912 loc. 360

Sponsored by: CLAY, ROYAL CARIBBEAN

SIIX

We care.

50 YEARS OF BUSINESS IN THE PHILIPPINES

SIIX Corp. is a company that systematically links business requirements of various firms on a global scale through its far-reaching overseas operations, company connections and large networks. Principally, the company is engaged in trade, logistics, merchandising and manufacturing of consumer and business electronics, and industrial machinery. SIIX Corp.'s expertise in export, import, sale and three-way trade spans half a century, augmented by its cohesive global business network spread over 17 overseas offices and factories, and 27 affiliates and joint venture companies. With the company's headquarters in Osaka, Japan, its robust global reach extends to China, Taiwan, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, Germany, Slovakia, USA and Brazil. The company has two offices in the Philippines, SIIX Phils., Inc. and SIIX Logistics Phils., Inc. Its local partner and affiliates are Kawasaki Motors (Phils.) Corp., International Wiring Systems (Phils.) Corp., Delsa Chemicals and Multi-Products, Inc., Shinto-Welbest Manufacturing, Inc., and partner Integrated Microelectronics, Inc.

SIIX Corp., Osaka, Japan

Mr. Shiro Murai
Chairman & CEO
SIIX Corp.

Mr. Kansho Murase
President & COO
SIIX Corp.

SIIX Logistics Phils., Inc.
125 Technology Avenue,
Phase 4 Special Processing Economic Zone
Laguna Technopark, Inc. Binan, Laguna
Telephone : (049)541-31-46 to 49
Fax : (049)541-31-55, 541-34-54

SIIX Phils., Inc.
Room 802 Sage House, 110 Herrera St.
Legaspi Village, Makati City
P.O. Box 2985 Makati City Post Office,
Makati City, Philippines
Telephone : (02)892-34-61, 813-12-09, 818-51-25
Fax : (02)818-04-84

SIIX Corp. Headquarters
1-4-9, Bingo-machi, Chuo-ku, Osaka, Japan
541-0051 Japan
Telephone : +81-(0)6-6266-6400
Fax : +81-(0)6-6266-6428
webmaster@siix.co.jp

CONGRATULATIONS
FROM

Kawasaki

KAWASAKI MOTORS PHILIPPINES CORPORATION.
Km. 23 East Service Road, Bo. Cupang,
Muntinlupa City, Philippines
(02) 842-31-40

IMI

INTEGRATED MICROELECTRONICS, INC.
North Science Avenue, Special Export Processing Zone
Laguna Technopark, Biñan, Laguna,
4034 Philippines 049-544-0312
www.imiphil.com

CDI SAKATA INX CORP.
(SINCE 1964)

CDI Sakata Inx Corp.
Don Jesus Boulevard, Alabang Hills Village, Alabang,
Muntinlupa City, Philippines
(02)842-2070 to 72
www.cdisakatainxcorp.com

IWS

INTERNATIONAL WIRING SYSTEMS (PHILS.) CORP.
LUISITA INDUSTRIAL PARK SPECIAL
EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE
SAN MIGUEL,TARLAC CITY, 2301 PHILIPPINES
(045)985-0080 to 89
www.iwspc.com

SHINTO-WELBEST MANUFACTURING, INC.

SHINTO-WELBEST MFG., INC.
048 Amang Rodriguez Avenue, Santolan,
Pasig, Philippines
(02)645-8750

DELSA
CHEMICALS

DELSA CHEMICALS & MULTI-PRODUCTS, INC.
Km. 24 East Service Road, Bo. Cupang,
Muntinlupa City, Philippines
(02)850-2964 or 2967

DOTC OKs new vehicle insurance system

Private non-life insurers opposing order

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTation and Communication has issued an order implementing within 15 days a new insurance system for motor vehicles, preempting the Insurance Commission's plan to introduce a new third-party liability insurance system on July 24.

Under DOTC Order 2007-28, vehicle owners should automatically have their comprehensive third-party liability (CTPL) insurance once they register or renew the registration of their vehicles with the Land Transportation Office (LTO).

Upon application for registration, vehicle owners will be asked to pay not only the registration fee but also the CTPL charges.

The transport agency said in the order that only one insurance company would handle all the vehicle insurance business. The other day, National Reinsurance Corp. of the Philippines announced it would be handling the vehicle insurance business.

The National Reinsurance Corp. is partly owned by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

The Insurance Commission earlier got into a conflict with the GSIS, as the IC said it was not in favor of having a monopoly in the vehicle insurance business.

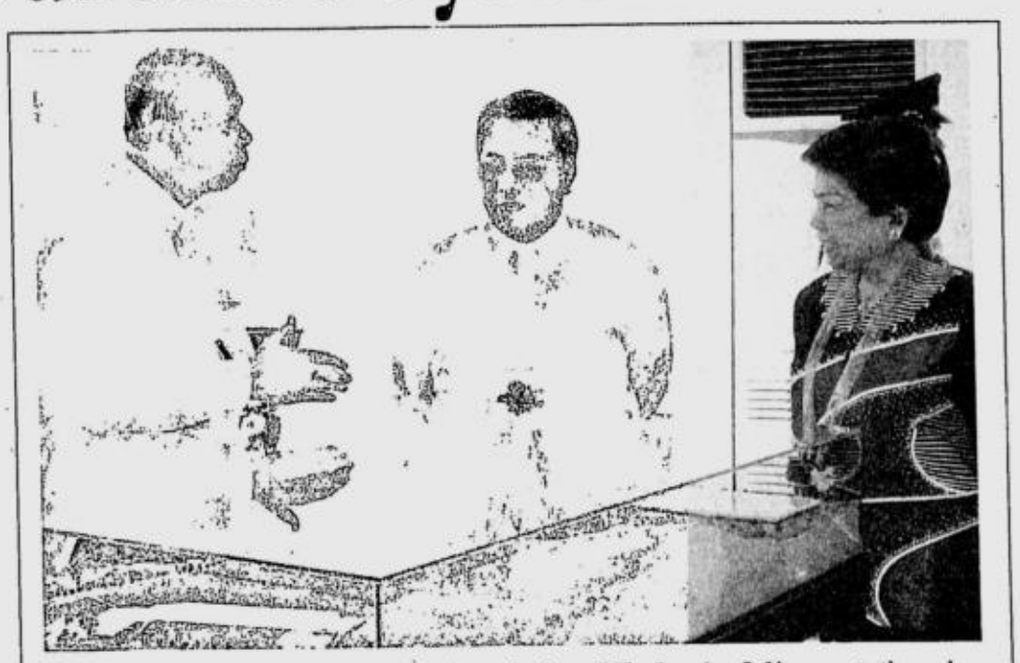
Insurance Commissioner Evangeline Escobillo said her office was preparing a new system to regulate the vehicle insurance business and this should be in place by July 24.

Under the IC system, vehicle owners could opt to buy their insurance from any legitimate insurance firm. The validity of the insurance will have to be verified by the commission, whose database will be linked to that of the LTO.

The non-life insurance industry said it would sue the DOTC for issuing an order that was disadvantageous to other players in the non-life insurance industry and their brokers. The group also said it would file a request for a temporary restraining order.

The Philippine Insurers and Reinsurers Association (Pira) said the DOTC order was against the Constitution, which prohibits a monopoly of any market.

Micheal Rellosa, president of insurance firm Fortune General and spokesperson of Pira, said there would be 12,000 insurance broker who would be displaced from work if this system would be implemented. About P3 billion worth of CTPL policies are sold in the country every year.



PLANTERS Development Bank chair Ambassador Jesus P. Tambunting (left) presents the scale model of the country's first SME Industrial Park in Naga, Cebu to Presidential Management Staff Director General Cerge Remonde and Philippine Economic Zone Authority Director General Lilia De Lima. The SME park, put up by Plantersbank, was formally opened yesterday.

RP stronger, wiser a decade after crisis

(Second of three parts)

By Doris C. Dumlao, Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson and Daxim L. Lucas

SPECIAL REPORT

ON JULY 11, 1997, THE BREWING EAST Asian financial crisis struck home. Within a few minutes after the trading day opened, the simultaneous drop in the currency, stock and bond markets wiped out billions of pesos invested in Philippine assets. Billions more would be lost here and abroad in the next few weeks and months as the crisis deepened.

A decade on, however, Asia has risen to be the world's fastest-growing region. Its five crisis-affected countries—the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and especially South Korea—have all bounced back from the economic slump of the late 1990s and are widely seen as more resilient to capital market and financial shocks.

Smarting from the turmoil a decade ago, most Asian emerging markets are now extra-cautious in dealing with the volatile foreign portfolio inflows or hot money now swamping their stock and money markets. Even countries and institutions which were not devastated by the turmoil have altered their policies as a result of the contagion.

What is now clear is that the Asian financial crisis has become one of the 20th century's most effective change agent in the business community. This episode altered the financial world for all time, former Finance Secretary Roberto De Ocampo says.

"Had we not been devastated by it, we might, at this moment, still be stuck in our old complacent ways," he points out.

The Philippines has resumed the foreign exchange liberalization thrust interrupted by the crisis 10 years ago. Wary of an excessive growth in broad money supply once foreign inflows are invested into pesos, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) figured out that easing restrictions on capital outflows, or letting the steam out, is a better way of preventing overheating or a sharp rise in inflation than curbing inflows.

"This strong capital inflow poses several challenges, including the rapid appreciation of the domestic currency which could affect the competitiveness of the country's exports," explains BSP Governor Amando M. Tetangco Jr.

Despite varied strategy on how to avoid the recurrence of a similar contagion, crisis-affected countries have a lot in common: They have all beefed up their foreign reserves, churned out external account surplus, reduced dependence on short-term capital funds and strengthened their banking systems.

Fundamental differences

Economist Johnny Noe Ravalo agrees that there are fundamental differences between then and now, both in terms of absolute economic numbers and regulatory structures.

Ravalo, who was the chief economist of the Bankers Association of the Philippines at the time of the crisis, cautions, however, against what he feels is the growing complacency boosted by the country's robust economic growth.

"I've heard some people say that it's not going to happen again," he says. "We don't know that for sure. The nature of a crisis is that it's usually a surprise."

He points out that significant reforms have been put in place in terms of banking and corporate regulation that have increased the confidence level in the country's markets.

"The test of how well we've done is how we perform in the next crisis," Ravalo says. "Nobody wants to see it happen, but we'll never know how good the reforms are until the next one comes."

Corporate recovery

On the local corporate scene, several companies that reeled from the 1997 Asian financial debacle have now seen the light at the end of a long and dark tunnel.

C&P Homes Inc., for one, is seeing its rebirth in the stock market after struggling with large dollar and peso debts in the past years. C&P Homes was touted as the biggest homebuilder in Southeast Asia when Sen. Manuel Villar took the company public in 1995.

Since 2005, C&P Homes has managed to convert its P3-billion long-term commercial papers into shares and restructured to long-term debt of roughly $150 million in floating rate notes.

Wanting to get C&P back on its feet, the Villar Group's investment firm Vista Land & Lifescapes Inc. found new inspiration in the stock market this year, embarking on a primary offer that raised roughly P13 billion to fund capital spending in the revitalized property sector and to settle loans.

Another company that is trying to get back on its feet is Benpres Holdings Corp. In its stockholders' meeting, Benpres chair Oscar Lopez says that Benpres was seen as a proxy for the Philippines by financial analysts in the mid-1990s.

One could look at Benpres back then and get a good feel of the state of the country's economy. With the onset of the financial crisis, the fortunes of Benpres—and that of the country—took a nosedive, Lopez recalls, adding that it was like the proverbial Murphy's Law striking hard.

"When we declared a standstill in 2002, the burden of a $400-million debt seemed insurmountable," he says. "The following year, Meralco (power distributor Manila Electric Co.) began a P28-billion refund ordered by the Supreme Court. Almost simultaneously, we had to return our water concession that eventually led to our withdrawal from Maynilad Water Services in 2005 at a loss of at least P3 billion."

Last year, things turned brighter for Benpres after its affiliate First Gen Corp. raised P9.1 billion from an IPO. Meralco was also able to refinance some P12 billion worth of debt and recently won a favorable decision from the Supreme Court on the unbundling of its rates.

Benpres is now optimistic it can fully restructure $400 million in debt this year, marking a significant turnaround for the company, and reflecting the rising fortunes of the local corporate sector.

Overall, the consensus is that the Asian currency turmoil of 10 years ago is not likely to recur anytime soon.

No imminent threat

"We've seen a more appropriate process of investment in the last 10 years," says UBS economist Paul Donovan. "The misdirection of investments, which were misplaced in some countries, has now been corrected and built on more solid foundations."

Donovan notes that investments are now going into areas where they earn reasonable returns and not in much-hyped areas, unlike before the currency crisis when there was a lot of speculative activity on the property market.

"People are taking a calmer and more rationale approach to investments," he says. "The assessment of risks on local companies in the region and the Philippines I think is a lot better than it was 10 years ago. For instance, we're not seeing people borrowing in foreign currency without any kind of hedging."

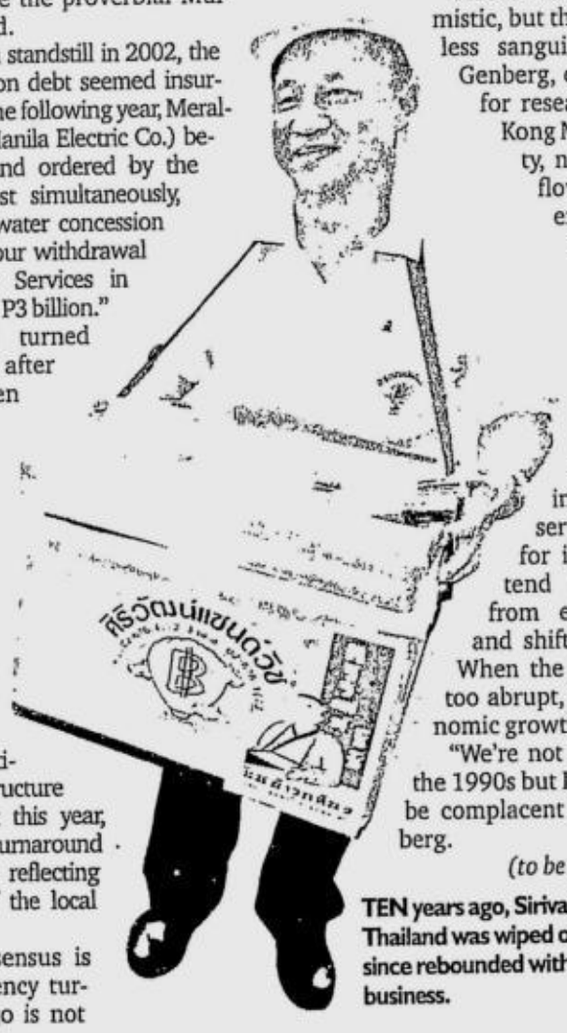
There's reason to be optimistic, but there's reason to be less sanguine, warns Hans Genberg, executive director for research at the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, noting that capital flows to Asian emerging market are still being largely affected by interest rate levels and liquidity in developed countries.

Whenever there's expectation of an increase in US Federal Reserve interest rates, for instance, investors tend to dump assets from emerging markets and shift to US treasuries. When the capital reversal is too abrupt, Genberg says economic growth will be affected.

"We're not in the situation of the 1990s but I don't think we can be complacent either," says Genberg.

(to be concluded)

A DECADE after the crisis, Asia is seen as more resilient to capital market and financial shocks.



TEN years ago, Sirivat Voravetvuthikun of Thailand was wiped out financially. He has since rebounded with his sandwich business. AP

AFTER YEARS OF REHAB

PhilRealty ready to ride boom

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

PHILIPPINE REALTY AND HOLDings Corp., the company that built the home of the Philippine Stock Exchange in Pasig City, was among the property developers that virtually crumbled under the weight of the 1997 Asian financial crisis.

After years of rehabilitation, the company claims it is now well on its way to full recovery.

Company president Amador Bacani, in an affidavit of financial condition filed with the courts in December 2002, recounted that PhilRealty became aware of its financial problem the very same year the Asian contagion started.

It just realized it was being squeezed by the steep drop in the demand for property and the surge in interest rates. With its property acquisitions and development financed partly with borrowings, the soaring of interest rates proved to be very costly for the company.

From the late 1990s to 2002, PhilRealty paid its five creditor banks a hefty P2.1 billion in interest and penalties, alone.

The sharp drop in the rental rates on condominium units, both office and commercial units, as well as the decline in occupancy rates put severe pressure on the company's finances.

The company incurred huge losses from 1999 to 2001 and this prompted PhilRealty to file a petition for corporate rehabilitation in December 2002.

The Quezon City regional trial court approved the petition in 2003. PhilRealty was allowed to suspend payment to creditors and the court stopped the creditors from foreclosing on the companies mortgages.

With the court approval, Philrealty went down to business and implemented its receiver's recommended rehabilitation plan. PhilRealty made a breakthrough in its rehabilitation program when it inked an agreement with its largest creditor bank in June 2006, which involved the sale of its mortgaged shares in International Exchange Bank (iBank) and the application of the proceeds worth P1.1 billion to its outstanding debts. This was reported in the property firm's latest financial filing with regulators.

The company's rehabilitation program went so well that when the property sector started peaking again, PhilRealty was ready to ride the boom.

As of end 2006, the company reported a net income of P686.8 milion, its second straight year of profit, and more than double the income of P323.5 million in 2005.

Its joint venture with Xcell Property Ventures Inc. for the development of twin tower Icon Residences at the Bonifacio Global City is now enjoying the benefits of the property sector's recovery, with Tower 2 now 75 percent sold.

Tower 1 is scheduled for completion by June 2009, and Tower 2 would be finished by the end of 2009.

Last year, PhilRealty also sold some of its shares in A Brown Co. which generated about P100 million.

With cash in its pocket, PhilRealty is now preparing for the resumption of its 2.8-hectare condominium project in New Manila, Quezon City, called Andrea North Skyline Tower.

Andrea Skyline, Philealty's flagship residential project in Quezon City, was started in 1996 but this project was suspended in 2000 in the aftermath of the Asian financial crisis.

Of its more than P2 billion in debt, only P100 million is left.

"PhilRealty has settled all its obligations with its creditors except with one bank," legal counsel for the rehab Amado Santiago Jr. said.

Napocor chief seeks clarification from ERC

By Abigail L. Ho

IN DANGER OF BEING PLACED under regulator scrutiny, state-run National Power Corp. will seek clarification from the Energy Regulatory Commission on what it said or did that can be tagged as "inappropriate" dealings within the wholesale electricity spot market (Wesm).

"We understand the ERC's concern to assure the integrity and transparency of the trading markets and we wish to assure them of our cooperation. Napocor is now reviewing the scope and style of its communications with (Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp.) to assure against anything that can be misinterpreted. This is all part of the learning and maturing process of the spot market," Napocor president Cyril Del Callar said in a briefing yesterday.

The ERC, in a June 6 decision, cleared PSALM of charges of price manipulation at the electricity bourse last year.

The same order, however, said Napocor acted in an "inappropriate" manner via letters that suggested a price-fixing arrangement between the state firm and PSALM.

Francis Saturnino Juan, ERC investigating officer for the Wesm price manipulation issue, said Napocor had written PSALM twice, recommending certain policies that could be deemed tantamount to a price-fixing arrangement.

Del Callar said the state firm would have to clarify first with the ERC what the regulator deemed "inappropriate" behavior.

He said Napocor's activities in the Wesm had always been governed by the policy of "least cost to customers and consumers and least loss to the government."

"The rates we use for pricing our electricity for Wesm trading are within the bounds of the ERC-approved time-of-use (TOU) rates," he said.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given to the public that the above person, **ERIKA M. LAMAN** is no longer connected with HD Stop Overs, Inc. effective July 4, 2007.

Any transaction entered by the said person for and on behalf of this company shall not be honored.

(PDI – July 12, 2007)

SURIGAO STATE COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

Narciso Street, Surigao City
Tel. No. 231-7798 / Telefax No. (086) 826-6346

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

The SURIGAO STATE COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY, Surigao City, is inviting interested bidders (TYPE "A" CONTRACTOR) to apply for eligibility and to bid for the herein under contract:

Name of the Project : Construction of 5-Storey Commercial/Engineering Bldg. (Phase 1)
Project Location : Narciso Street, Surigao City (SSCT Campus)
Approved Budget : Php41,900,000.00
Fund Source : Agency Income
Contract Duration : 420 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

All particulars relative to the bidding process (from Eligibility Check up to the Award of the Contract) and implementation of the project shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) and applicable Annexes.

The schedule of activities are as follows:

1. Receipt of Letter of Intent from bidders	July 23-31, 2007, Office of BAC Chairman, SSCT, Surigao City
2. Eligibility check	August 1, 2007 at EMRC, SSCT, Surigao City
3. Issuance of notice of results of eligibility check	August 2, 2007
4. Issuance of bid documents to eligible bidders with a non-refundable fee of Php40,000.00/eligible bidder	August 6-15, 2007 at SSCT, Surigao City
5. Site Inspection: Prospective bidders must have to secure bid documents first before joining the site inspection.	August 20, 2007; 8:00 AM Site Inspection will be guided by the College Resident Engineer
6. Pre-Bid Conference	August 21, 2007, 8:00 AM at EMRC, SSCT
7. Dropping and Opening of Bids All bids must be accompanied by a BID Security in the form of Cash, Cashier's or Certified Check in the amount of Php209,500.00 (5% of ABC) or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late bids shall not be accepted.	September 3, 2007 at exactly 10:00 AM at EMRC, SSCT, Surigao City Campus

The Surigao State College of Technology assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids. The college reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality or defects therein, or to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to SSCT.

(Sgd.) ECCLESIASTES T. DUMANIG
BAC Chairman

(PDI–July 5 & 12, 2007)

Mactan Economic Zone

PEZA

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

2007 SECURITY SERVICES REQUIREMENT FOR CEBU ECOZONES

1. The *Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA)*, through its Corporate Operating Budget for the CY 2006 intends to apply the sum of Php 12,538,594.48 being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract of 2007 Security Services Requirement for Cebu Ecozones. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The PEZA now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs), copy of Phil-GEPS Certificate of Registration and proof of enrollment with the BIR Electronic Filing and Payment System (e-FPS) from potential bidders to apply for eligibility for the 2007 Security Services Requirement for Cebu Ecozones.
3. Bidders should be PADPAO accredited and have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Bidders must have no existing security services contract with enterprises and/or developers in Mactan Economic Zone (MEZ), Mactan Economic Zone II – Special Economic Zone (MEZ II-SEZ), Mitsumi Realty, Inc.-Special Economic Zone (MRI-SEZ), Cebu Light Industrial Park-Special Economic Zone (CLIP-SEZ), and West Cebu Industrial Park – Special Economic Zone (WCIP-SEZ).
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the PEZA and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **7:30 AM to 4:30 PM on 29 June – 13 July 2007.**
5. Interested bidders must submit their Letters of Intent, certified copy of their Phil-GEPS Certificate of Registration, and e-FPS enrolment **not later than 13 July 2007** at the address given below and secure the complete set of Bidding Documents therefrom, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 5,000.00.
6. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened and a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.
7. The PEZA will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference on 20 July 2007 at 2:00 PM** at the address given below.
8. Bidders must submit their Bids at the address given below **on or before 2:00 PM of 13 August 2007.** All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of not less than 2.5% of the ABC or in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit in amount of not less than 1% of the ABC. Late bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on **13 August 2007 at 2:00 PM** at the address given below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. In case any of the above date/s is declared a non-working holiday it will automatically be rescheduled on the next working day (same time).
10. Delivery of Services is required within ten (10) calendar days from date of receipt of the Notice to Proceed.
11. The PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

MACTAN ECONOMIC ZONE
6015 Lapu-Lapu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 340-0590 to 93
Fax Nos. (032) 340-0594 to 95
Website: www.peza.gov.ph

BAC Chairman

(PDI – June 29 & July 12, 2007)

PROFESSIONAL & CREDIBLE
PAWN*BUY*SELL
WATCHES
Jewelry & Diamonds
BEST APPRAISAL
Secondo Glorietta 1
Tel# 894-0282
Agencia de Makati
Tel# 889-7956

Blue Ribbon English Training Center, Inc.
is in need of
MANAGER

- Graduate of Bachelor of Education, Major in English
- Willing to move in SBMA
- With 3 to 5 years education experience
- Must know how to speak Korean and English fluently
- Highly computer literate

Please send resume at Bldg. 8344 Sulu Road, Cubi-Triboa Ave., Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines
Tel. (6347)-2522642 / (6347)-2525140
Email : subicblueribbon@yahoo.co.kr

For your Classified and Obituary Ads please call:
637-2008

BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX
& other SWISS WATCHES
JEWELRY
DIAMONDS
BEST PRICE
SPOT CASH
8341572
8316712

WE BUY at HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
HIS & HERS Watch Center
5646593 5897041
0917-8473744
Room 603 Manila Pavilion Hotel and GoldCrest Bldg.
Glorietta-2 Makati

07 URVAN
ESCAPADE
10 HOURS
P1,800
WITH DRIVER
7878776/7964377
09213497170

NOTICE OF LOSS

DA-RFU III Receipts No. 8960951-896100 and 4901351-4901400 given to Mrs. Margarita Santos by General Services Section were lost. Any transaction covered by those OR# shall not be honored by the company.

DA-RFU III
City of San Fernando, Pampanga

(PDI–July 10 & 12, 2007)

OBITUARIES

In loving memory of

JOSE FRANCISCO CAPULONG BLANCO

Jose "Peping" Blanco as his family and friends knew him, passed away on July 10, 2007, at the age of 75 years.

"Peping" attended Rizal High School and the University of the Philippines. He graduated from law from the said university and went on to become a successful labor lawyer.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, **Fe**; his children, **Deedee** and husband **Dimsy**, **Benjie** and husband **Phillip**, **Joey** and wife **Oyette**, **Tony**, husband of daughter **Bobbi** (deceased), **Quito** and wife **Sai**, **Karen** and husband **Peter**. He will also be remembered as "Grandpa" to **Andrea**, **Anton**, **Michael**, **Nathan**, **Maddie**, **Abby**, **Steffi**, **Sophie**, and **Rocky**.

A funeral service in memory of "Peping" will be held at Chapel 1 of the Mortuary & Crematory of **The Heritage Park** in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City starting from **July 11 up to July 13, 2007**. Inurnment will follow on **July 14, 2007** after the 8am Mass at The Heritage Park as well.

Mortuary and Crematory at The Heritage Park

ATTY. RICARDO CUIZON-PERALEJO

February 2, 1921 – July 10, 2007
has gone home peacefully to His Creator.

He is survived by his wife **Lolita**; brother **Cezar (ret. Judge)**, and children: **Lorenzo** & wife **Ophelia**, **Ricardo, Jr.** & wife **Alicia**, **Rebecca** & husband **Ruben**, **Emilie** & husband **Rene**, **Sylvia** & husband **Chito**, **Edgar** & partner **Sheila**, **Alen** & husband **Roly**, **Edwin** & wife **Jeanine** and daughters-in-law **Lourdes** and **Zenaida**, 33 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

His body lies in state at Superior Chapel, La Funeraria Paz, Inc. Extension, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will take place at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City on Saturday, July 14, 2007 after the 9:00 a.m. Funeral Mass at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, Kanlaon cor. N.S. Amoranto St. (formerly Retiro), Quezon City.

"...the good you do today, people will forget tomorrow. Do good anyway. Give the world the best that you have, and it may never be enough. Give the best you have anyway. You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway." – Mother Teresa

(In lieu of flowers, donations to Community 1, Neo-Catechumenate of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Kanlaon cor. N.S. Amoranto St., Q.C. will be much appreciated.)

Please make your checks payable to Equitable PCI Bank (Mayon cor. N. Roxas) SA# 1270-03696-8.

Death Notice

ROGELIO "Daddy Ogie" BUENAVISTA BORLAZA

peacefully joined our Lord on July 8, 2007 at the age of 63.

His remains lie in state at No. 073 A. Mabini St., Liliw, Laguna.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 15, 2007, 2pm at Liliw Municipal Cemetery after the Mass at St. John the Baptist Church, Liliw, Laguna.

Ret. Judge Jose R. Nolasco

died in the grace of our Lord on July 09, 2007 at the age of 88.

He is survived by his wife, **Consuelo** and children **Ruben**, **Oriel (†)**, **Evelyn** and **Poe**.

His body lies in state at St. Peter Memorial Chapel at Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

Requiescat in Pace

GUILLERMO "Eming" GOZO

Passed away in the peace of our Lord at the age of 82.

His loving wife **Leoming Robiso** (†), children: **Reina** and **Jeck**, **Gil** and **Maila**, grandchildren **Gabby**, **Rafael**, **Carlo** and **Sofia**, relatives and friends request readers to pray for the repose of his soul.

Wake will be held in Majayjay, Laguna.
Burial at 2 pm, Saturday, July 14, 2007.

DR. TEOGENES G. NARCELLES

of Poblacion East, Rosario, La Union and Addison City, Illinois, USA

died on July 8, 2007 at the age of 80.

He was a retired provincial health officer in the Province of Benguet.

MD UST – 1953
MPH OF UP – 1973

He was a diplomate in public health in the Public Health Association of the Philippines.

Cremation will take place on Saturday, July 14, 2007 at 12 noon. His body lies in state at the family residence in Rosario, La Union.

Coleta Lovayes Quismorio

Joined her Creator on July 6, 2007 at the age of 83.

Her remains lie in state at the family home at Bañag, Daraga, Albay. Interment will be on July 14, 2007 (Saturday), 2:00 p.m. at Our Lady of the Gate Parish Church, Daraga, Albay.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord." 2 Corinthians 5:8

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.

Tel. Nos. : 712-3001 • 749-3806 to 11

NAME OF DECEASED	PLACE OF VIEWING	INTERMENT/CREMATION DATE & TIME	INTERMENT/CREMATION PLACE
Atty. Ricardo Cuizon-Peralejo	Supenor Chapel	14-July-07 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass	Loyola Memorial Park-Marikina
Teresita Mendoza Doria	Chapel – 11	14-July-07 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass	Eternal Gardens Memorial Park

More Classified Ads

Neda-Davao A7
Supreme Court A12
Department of Labor-NCR A14
PNOC A15
AFP A22
SEACOM A22
Negros Occidental Electric Cooperative, Inc. A23

BUSINESS

PNOC urged to remit ₱17B in share sale proceeds

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE will ask the Philippine National Oil Co. to remit to the national government the entire P17 billion in proceeds from the sale of shares in its subsidiary, PNOC Energy Development Corp. (EDC).

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said yesterday that there was merit to the request, given the shortfall in the tax collection as of June.

The anemic tax collection, if not offset by privatization proceeds, could result in the breaching of the budget-deficit ceiling for the year.

PNOC is a government-owned and -controlled corporation (GOCC), and as such, has the right to keep part of its income to fund its own programs.

State-owned firms are required to remit only at least half of their income to the national government.

But Teves said there was a dire need to shore up the government's revenues to ensure it will meet its deficit goal for the year.

PNOC-EDC, established in 1976, explores, develops and markets geothermal and other energy resources, and sells steam to the state-owned power-generating firm National Power Corp.

The government was reported the other day to have sold a 20-percent stake in PNOC- EDC for P17.1 billion to institutional buyers.

The sale of state-owned assets is expected to prevent the government from breaching its fiscal targets this year.

The national government hopes to limit the budget deficit this year to P63 billion.

"We are confident that the budget deficit will not reach more than P63 billion this year. We are complementing our intensified tax collection efforts with aggressive privatization and more effective programs versus tax evaders to boost revenues," Teves said.

Teves made the statement after Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri expressed fears that the government will likely hit a budget deficit of as much as P100 billion this year due to off-target tax collection in the first half.

The government posted a deficit of P37.7 billion as of June, overshooting the ceiling of P31.1 billion for the period.

Teves said the government need not change its fiscal targets because there was still a great chance of shoring up revenue collection with the privatization of big-ticket state-owned assets.

Besides the 20-percent stake in PNOC-EDC, other assets lined up for sale this year include the 24-percent stake in food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp., the 12-percent stake in Manila Electric Co., and another 40-percent stake in PNOC-EDC.

The government expects to collect P50 billion from the sale of its SMC shares, some P11 billion from the sale of Meralco shares, and close to P30 billion from the remaining 60-percent stake in PNOC-EDC.

NO SALE OF CIGARETTES TO MINORS
Fortune Tobacco Corp.'s Harry Tan (left) and Cris Nelson, Philip Morris Phil. managing director, post 'no sale of cigarettes to minors' stickers on a *sari-sari* store in Makati City as part of efforts to inform retail store owners and adult consumers that selling cigarettes to minors is prohibited by law.

Houseware manufacturers eye Brazil

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL MAKERS OF HOUSEWARE and giftware are making their debut on the South American promotional circuit to crank up business especially in Brazil, the continent's biggest market.

Trade Assistant Secretary Felicitas Agoncillo-Reyes, who is also executive director of the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions, said the agency was encouraging and helping houseware manufacturers to link with established Brazilian buyers and learn the consumer preferences of the emerging market.

Reyes said that the production of houseware and giftware items was among the oldest industries in the Philippines, with exports in 2006 reaching $154 million for houseware and $87 million for giftware.

She said nine local firms, along with the Philippine Chamber of Handicraft industries, were taking part for the first time in the House & Gift Fair South America—the leading houseware trade show in Latin America and fifth largest in the world—to be held Aug. 18-21 in Sao Paulo.

The House & Gift Fair is made up of six exhibition halls—In Domus, Utility House, Textile House, Electro House, Linea Domus and World of Gifts—bringing together Brazilian and international companies, manufacturers, importers and distributors to interact with the market.

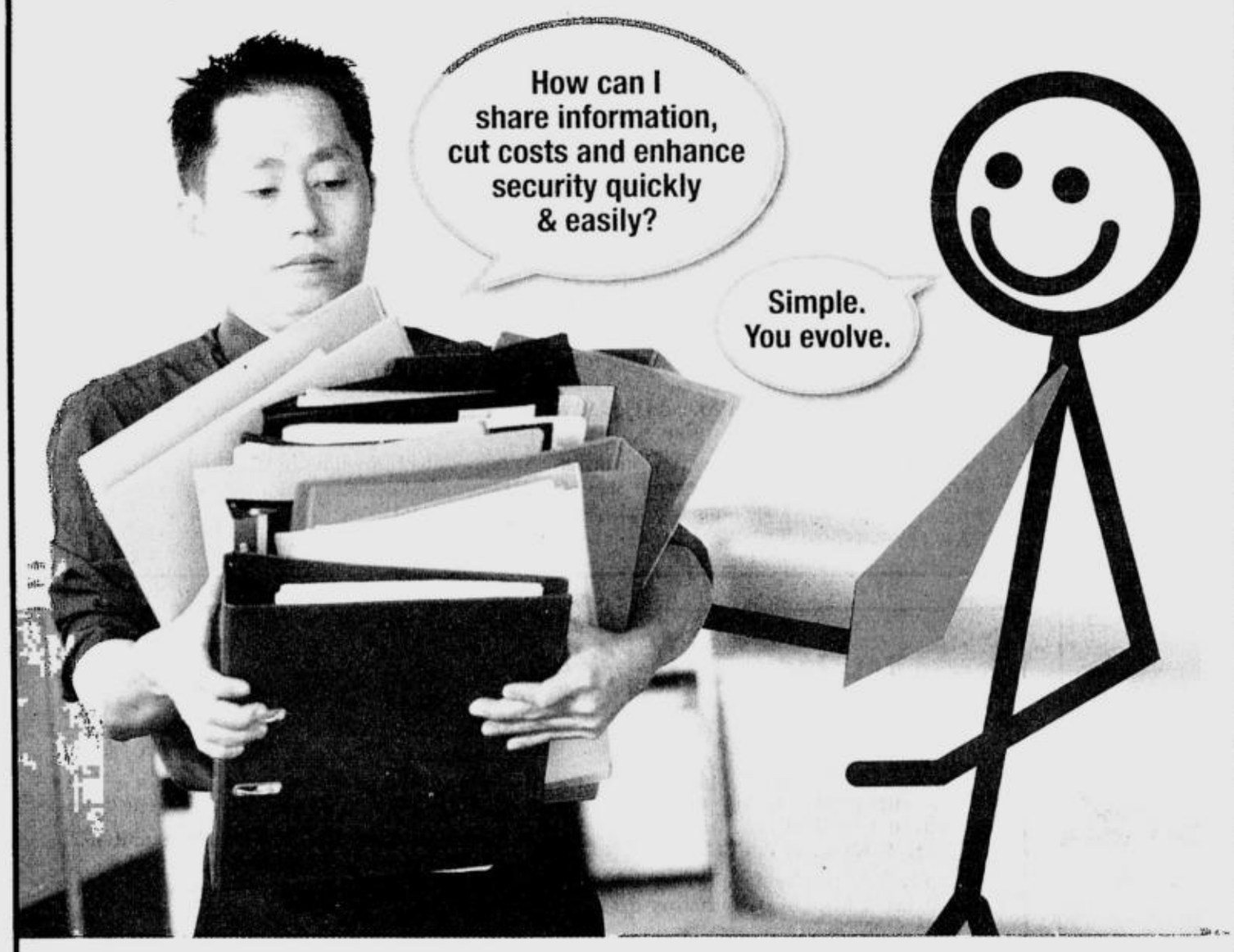
The companies include makers of handmade home décor, fashion accessories, arts and craft items, fashion accessories, fiberglass lighting, picture frames, pens, curtains, polished shells, red and white clay vases, houseware items made of metal and glass, accent furniture, sculptured wall décor and hangings and figurines.

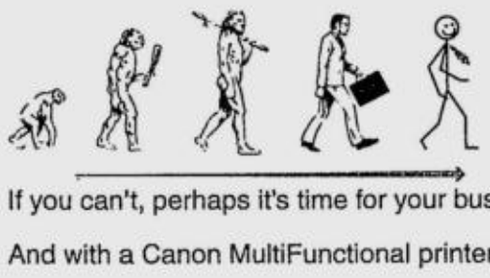
Reyes cited studies that point to South America as an excellent market for local exporters because of its 13 countries with a population of over 370 million and a combined national income of roughly $1.5 trillion.

She said that the Brazilian market was the focus for exporters as imports reach about $70 billion with the country's 22,000 importers looking for quality products from other countries.

Citem data show that in 2005, houseware exports to Brazil reached $93.2 million; $49.1 million for giftware items; and $182.3 million for fashion accessories.

Canon
Delighting You Always





How evolved is your business? Can you share important paper documents with colleagues and business partners in an instant? Be confident that the documents will arrive? Or that the whole process will run smoothly and cost-efficiently?

If you can't, perhaps it's time for your business to evolve.

And with a Canon MultiFunctional printer and software, it couldn't be simpler.

As a single device that handles the work of many, a Canon MultiFunctional printer treats paper documents like electronic files, allowing you to track the activities of individual users and enhance security. In addition, it can link to your existing email system and use existing address books, meaning you can scan and distribute via email directly from your Canon MultiFunctional printer.

In fact, you'll find that a Canon MultiFunctional printer will totally evolve the way you do business. For more information and to register for our upcoming seminar on Efficient Document Distribution, log on to www.businesscanbesimple.biz

10 Delightful Years IN THE PHILIPPINES

Business Can be simple

Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc., Marvin Plaza Bldg., 2153 Don Chino Roces Ave, Makati City, Philippines
Tel: (02) 884-9009 / (02) 884-9010 • Fax: (02) 894-4174

Marathon takes 5.22% of Benpres Holdings

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

LONDON-BASED INVESTMENT firm Marathon Asset Management said it now owns 5.22 percent of Benpres Holdings Corp., the holding company of the Lopez group of companies.

In an ownership report filed with the Philippine Stock Exchange, Marathon Asset said it owns 238.56 million shares of Benpres or roughly 5.22 percent of the company's issued shares.

Marathon made several purchases of Benpres stocks from May to June worth a combined P1.15 billion, PSE data showed.

Benpres shares closed yesterday at P5.40 each, up 10 centavos from P5.30 on Tuesday.

Marathon Asset Management is an owner-managed global equity investment firm based in London, which manages assets for a broad range of institutional clients.

Marathon was founded in 1986.

Its clients include nine of the 40 largest US pension plans and eight United Kingdom FTSE (Financial Times Stock Exchange index owned by Financial Times and the London Stock Exchange) 100 companies.

Benpres, on the other hand, is a holding company with interests in toll road operations, power generation and distribution, television broadcasting and property development.

Benpres president Angel Ong had said he was optimistic that Benpres can fully restructure its $400 million or P18 billion in debt this year.

Ong said Benpres has proposed to bank creditors that it settle its debts by paying cash raised from the sale of assets and stretching the repayment period of the loans to 12 years from 10 years.

Benpres was able to bring down its debt from P31 billion or $560 million last June 2002.

DA prepares funds for rainy season woes

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRIculture has allocated at least P20 million for each regional director to serve as "standby funds" in preparation for the onslaught of the rainy season.

"We have already tapped the calamity, mitigation and production turnaround funds for the use of each regional director. In this way, they can act immediately as soon as damages are reported," said Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap in a statement.

He added that the 16 regional directors can use these funds for typhoon-related purposes—the amount of which would vary for each region—without having to consult the DA office in Manila.

"This would ensure a continuous flow of agricultural produce from farmers to markets despite the onslaught of typhoons," Yap said.

By having this strong link, agriculture produce shortages and unwarranted price increases can be avoided during the rainy season.

Yap also said that the government was intensifying efforts to construct uniform drying and storage systems for major commodities to improve the farmers' capability to store and move their produce.

Yap earlier said that the DA was striving to put all the necessary infrastructure and postharvest facilities in place as these are crucial to the sustained growth of the agriculture sector.

The government, through the National Irrigation Administration, is also repairing and rehabilitating irrigation facilities covering some 300,000 hectares of farmlands.

To complement these infrastructure projects, the DA launched a program to expand the use of proper technology and new varieties of seeds to increase production of crops, livestock and fisheries.

As for rural credit, Yap earlier said the DA was reforming the rules and regulations on crop insurance to free up funds for financing critical programs to modernize agriculture.

Yap said the government aims to increase the annual growth of the agriculture sector to at least 5-6 percent for the next decade, from the current average of 3-4 percent.

Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

sms feedback: Inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

FITNESS • WEDNESDAY 2BU • THURSDAY FOOD • FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

SPOTTED at the food fest: pretty *capiz* dishes by Tesoro's

ASEAN AMBASSADORS: Emaleen Rahman Teo of Brunei, In May of Cambodia, Irzan Tandjung of Indonesia, Leuane Sombounkhan of Laos, Ahmad Rasidi Hazizi of Malaysia, U Thaung Tun of Myanmar, Lim Kheng Hua of Singapore, Asha Dvitiyananda of Thailand and Vu Xuan Truong of Vietnam

A diplomatic cookoff

Asean envoys whip up their countries' signature dishes for a cooking contest

KITCHEN RESCUE
Reggie Aspiras

SOUTHEAST ASIAN AMBASSADORS came together for a good cause in the first food festival organized by the Ladies Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

The Indonesian ambassador's residence was transformed into what looked like little Asia, each booth depicting the diplomats' respective countries, showcasing the best of their identities and their cuisine.

A true feast for the senses as both ladies and gentlemen also wore their national costumes.

Each tempting delicacy was laid out so neatly on their respective display tables, creating a buffet of mouthwatering specialties. It was hawker-ville at its finest.

There was no better place to be for street food lover like me. Fortunately, the event's very able coordinator, Tina Carlos, invited chefs Beth Romualdez, Myrna Segismundo and me to judge the booths and the culinary competition, the event's highlight.

The competitors were the ambassadors themselves.

As it has been the practice on Kitchen Rescue, here are the award-winning ones for readers asking for new and imaginative ways to cook noodles and for those requesting for *phad thai*.

Fried Noodles with Prawns and Cuttlefish

First place, by Ambassador U Thaung Tun of Myanmar

16 oz dried egg noodles
3½ tbsp peanut or corn oil
3 cloves garlic
2 tsp light soy sauce
½ tsp salt
6 scallions
1 carrot
1 red pepper
4 oz shrimps, shelled
4 oz cuttlefish, sliced

Boil noodles until tender, about a minute. Drain.

Heat wok. Over high heat, add ½ tbsp oil, add garlic and cook until brown. Add cuttlefish. Cook for one minute. Add shrimps and cook until they change color. Season with salt. Set aside.

Return wok to heat, add remaining oil.
Add rest of the ingredients.
Add prawns and cuttlefish mixture last.
Season with soy sauce to taste.

Chicken and Shrimp Noodle

Second place, by Ambassador Irzan Tandjung, with Juliana Carolina Tandjung, Indonesia

500 g fresh/washed noodles, mix with 1 tbsp sweet soy sauce
200 g chicken fillet, chopped
100 g peeled shrimp, finely chopped
100 g *pechay* or snow peas
50 g leeks, cut into 1-inch pieces
50 g carrots, sliced thinly into 2-inch pieces
5 tbsp vegetable oil
50 g onion, sliced thinly and fried crispy

Spices:
40 g garlic, ground
30 g onion, ground
1 tsp pepper
1 tsp salt or to taste
2 tsp sugar

Heat oil in a wok. Saute garlic and onion until fragrant. Add the chicken, shrimp and carrot. Mix until the color changes. Put salt, pepper and sugar. Add the noodles, leeks and *pechay* or peas.

Continue stirring until well-mixed and cooked. Serve on a large dish and top with fried onion.

Phad Thai

Third Place, by Ambassador Asha Dvitiyananda, with Portnip Pibulnaqarintp,

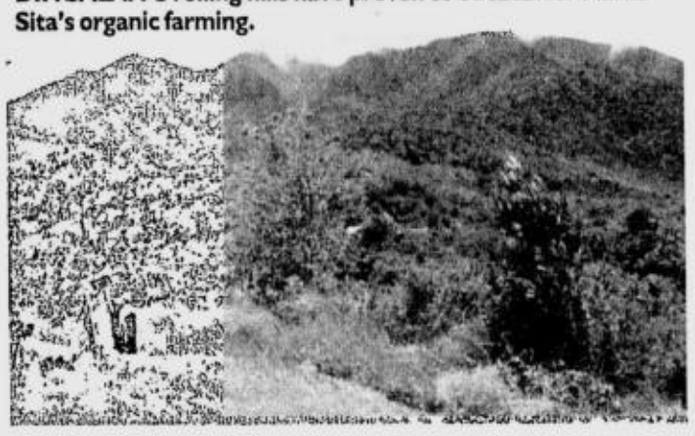
230 g Thai rice noodles
160 g bean sprouts
250 g prawns, peeled, de-veined
80 g tofu—firm, thinly sliced
20 g Chinese chives, green part, cut into 1.5 inches
30 g preserved Chinese radish slices

A DIPLOMATIC/ C2

VEGETABLES for *kare-kare* are served separately so they are crisp and firm.

The town where instant 'sinigang' mix begins

DINGALAN'S rolling hills have proven to be ideal for Mama Sita's organic farming.



Text and photos by Linda B. Bolido

SITUATED AT THE EDGE OF LUZON and kissed by the waves of the Pacific Ocean, Dingalan in Aurora Province is the stereotypical sleepy town.

Traveling to this part of Luzon, girded by the mighty Sierra Madre range is still difficult today, but imagine what it was like some two decades ago when members of the family of Engracia "Aling Asiang" Reyes, founder of the Aristocrat Restaurant, found their way to this coastal town.

But the agricultural-fishing town, its soil fed by natural springs in the mountain range, seemed ideal for a new family venture that had just started.

In the 1980s, the family began the production of ready-to-use mixes and sauces through the Marigold Commodities Corporation (MCC). What started as a cottage industry in the Reyes' ancestral home in San Juan was steadily expanding.

The instant *sinigang* base that Teresita "Mama Sita" Reyes, eldest daughter of the Aristocrat founder, asked a scientist son-in-law to develop for her so she could cook the Filipino sour soup wherever she was, was joined by mixes for such Filipino favorites as *kare-kare*, *kaldereta* and *menudo*, among others.

The growing product line under the brand name Mama Sita needed a steady source of raw materials. But not just any produce would do.

The mixes and sauces had to be made only from natural ingredients grown organically or with the least reliance on agricultural chemicals and under the most stringent quality standards.

Unpolluted

The rolling hills of Dingalan—still enjoying unpolluted air with only tricycles and an occasional *kuliglig* (mini-tractor) usually jockeying for space on the narrow roads—proved fertile grounds for growing *bayabas*, *sampalok*, *achuete*, and *langka* .

Recently, *kasuy* was introduced in the farms not for the nut but for the fruit itself.

Mama Sita's Ramon Reyes said they wanted to see what could be done with the fruit. He pointed out that most *kasuy* growers found only the nut useful, and threw away the fruit or fed it to pigs.

Mama Sita, true to its pioneering spirit, wanted to find other uses for the fruit. So far it has two promising possibilities—vinegar and wine.

The orchards will also start growing *suha* soon. Several saplings are already being nurtured at the 2.5-hectare nursery in Barangay Bukas na Bato where black pepper is also grown under kapok trees.

Overseeing the nursery and the other plantations is Delfin Tena, 59. He is assisted by about 30 occasional farm hands like Jesse Ordoñez and Danilo Ritual.

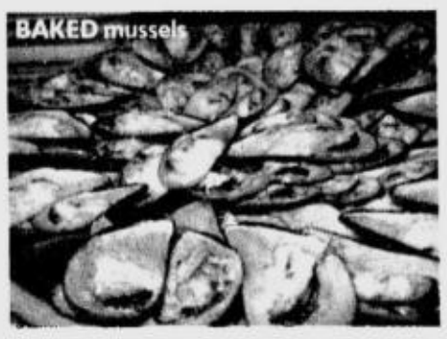
Small fishermen and farmers, Ordoñez, Ritual and the other farm help get a daily wage on those times they are needed, a much welcome addition to the family incomes.

Tutored by Mama Sita's Dr. Bart Lapuz, Tena and his crew rely mainly on bat droppings to fertilize the soil. They also have to be vigilant against pests and diseases. Unable to use chemicals, they have to nip any problem in the bud, so to speak, checking each plant manually for tell-tale signs of a brewing problem.

Such care and concern is more than appreciated by consumers as demonstrated by their continuing patronage of Mama Sita's line of products, some of which are used in the following recipes:

Sweet Chili Clams

(Makes 4 servings)
450 g clams, fresh and cleaned
1 tbsp oil
2 cloves garlic, minced



BAKED mussels

1 slice ginger, minced
Red and green bell peppers
Seasoning mix:
½ c chicken stock or water
¼ c catsup
½ tbsp Mama Sita's Labuyo Sauce
1 tbsp Mama Sita's Oyster Sauce
½ tbsp Mama Sita's Young Vinegar

Blanch clams until shells open. Remove and drain (discard clams that did not open).

Heat oil in a large pan and sauté garlic and ginger. Add the bell peppers and the seasoning mix. Let boil then reduce heat. Add clams and stir-fry until sauce boils and blends with the clams. Serve hot.

Seafood Chowder

(Makes 4 servings)
Water to soak clams
3 c *halaan* (clams)
2 c water
2 tbsp cooking oil
1 pc onion, chopped finely
2 tbsp leeks, chopped finely
2/3 c carrots, diced
2 pc laurel (bay leaves)
1 tbsp garlic, chopped finely
¾ c fresh milk
¼ c Mama Sita's Palabok (Shrimp Gravy) Mix 57 g or 2 oz
1 tsp grated orange rind (optional)

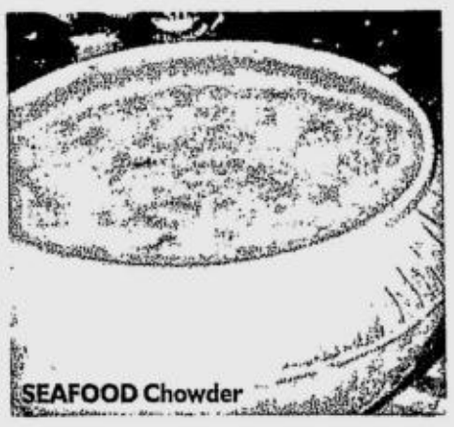
Soak the clams in water for several hours to remove the sand. Drain clams carefully.

Place clams in saucepan and add enough water to cover. Let it boil. When the clams open, turn off the heat. (Do not use unopened shells.) Set aside 1½ cups (375 ml) of the clam stock and discard the rest.

Heat oil. Sauté onions, leeks and carrots. Add bay leaves.

Add the clam stock, garlic, milk, and Mama Sita's Palabok (Shrimp Gravy) Mix. Continue stirring until the soup starts to thicken.

Add the clams and grated orange rind. Simmer for another 2 minutes. Serve with slices of French bread and some garlic-flavored mayonnaise.



SEAFOOD Chowder

Escabeche

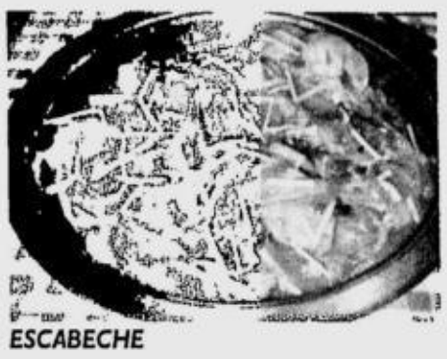
(Makes 4 servings)
3 tbsp cooking oil
1 tsp garlic, crushed
2 pc onion, sliced
1 tbsp ginger, sliced thinly
8 pc peppercorn, whole
¼ c carrot, sliced into discs
1 pc bell pepper, cubed (optional)
1 pouch Mama Sita's Sweet & Sour Sauce Mix, dissolved in ½ c water
3 pc fried whole fish or fish steak

Saute garlic, onion, ginger, peppercorns, carrots, and bell pepper in cooking oil until half-cooked.

Pour in the dissolved Mama Sita's Sweet & Sour Sauce Mix.

Stir until thick (about 5 minutes). Add the fish and simmer for 2 minutes.

Serve hot.



ESCABECHE

Basic Crepe Batter Recipe

200 g flour, all-purpose
1 pc egg
½ liter milk, fresh
25 g melted butter
2 pinches salt

Put the flour, salt (and sugar) in a salad bowl. Dip a shaft and put the (whole) egg in. Turn with a wooden spoon and add the melted butter. Turn gently until you have incorporated all the flour (add some milk if you need but just enough).

CREPES

Now that the batter is soft but not liquid, you have to turn very sharply so as to eliminate the lumps and obtain an homogeneous mixture.

Finish pouring the milk slowly while turning. Leave the batter for at least one hour before cooking.

Turn the batter. Heat a non-stick pan, put a light knob of butter (swirl the pan to distribute the melting butter). The pan must be hot enough to let the butter fry but not too hot so as not to make the butter turn brown.

Pour a small ladle of batter on the pan while swirling it to distribute the batter evenly (this is the important trick). Don't forget crepes must be very thin!

Cook until golden brown, turn the crepe upside down and cook the other side the same way. Put it in a large plate, stuff it and fold it into 4, or roll it. Do that again for each crepe.

Serve with Mama Sita's Fruit Syrup.

Cooking with herbs and spices

HERBS AND SPICES DO MORE than just add zest to recipes.

They can put people in a better mood, heal some common ailments and sometimes even add years to life.

According to the "21st Century Cook," dried herbs are especially good for slow-cooked dishes, usually added at the beginning of cooking to soften the food and release the flavors.

Fresh herbs with sturdy stems, like thyme and rosemary, are added early for flavor and later to give color. Soft, leafy herbs, such as coriander, chervil, basil and dill, have more flavor when raw and are better sprinkled on cooked food "to keep their vibrancy."

Delicate herbs brought fresh from Rustan's Supermarket, such as dill and tarragon, will keep fresh and firm in the fridge for several days. Rinse the herbs quickly, pat dry and lay on a bed of damp kitchen paper. Put them in a ziplock bag before storing. Herbs should be stored like flowers in a flower shop.

Herbs like parsley can be placed in ice cube trays with little water and frozen for long-term storage. They will remain fragrant for up to three months. Parsley cubes are very handy for dropping into soups, sauces and stews as needed.

The five must-have herbs in any household are bay, oregano, sage, rosemary and thyme.

Here are some tips on when and how to use herbs:

Basil: Best combined with tomatoes or any tomato-based dish. It is good with pesto, too.

Chives: Used for dips and spreads

Cilantro: The Mexican herb is best in salsa.

Dill: Best combined with fish and vegetable-based dishes

Mint: Great with fruits and salads or any dish with lamb

Oregano: Best used in Italian cooking with tomato

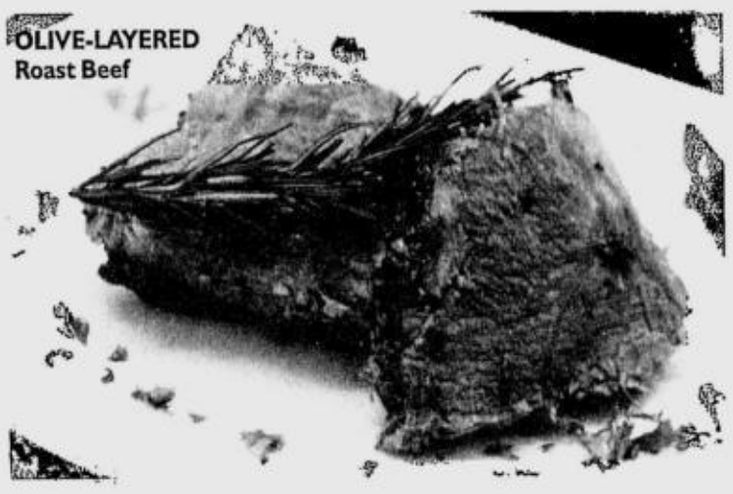
Parsley: The curly leaf is the most common, but the flat-leaf or Italian parsley is more strongly flavored and often preferred for cooking. Good with anything

Rosemary: Best with chicken, fish, lamb, pork, roasted potatoes, soups, stews, tomatoes

Tarragon: Good with chicken, eggs, fish, meat

Thyme: Eggs, lima beans, potatoes, poultry, summer squash, tomatoes

Rustan's Supermarket shares these herbed dishes by Chef Pixie Sevilla:



OLIVE-LAYERED Roast Beef

FRESH Shrimp Mediterranean Salad

Olive-layered Beef with Garlic (Truffle Oil) Mash

¾ k eye round beef (for roast beef)
½ c green olives, finely chopped
½ c black olives, finely chopped
2 tsp finely grated lemon rind
¼ c chopped fresh flat leaf parsley
2 tsp rosemary
2 tsp thyme
Garlic Mash
1 garlic bulb, un-peeled
6 large potatoes, peeled and chopped
¼ c butter
1½ c hot full cream milk
salt to taste

1. Preheat oven to 325°F.
2. Combine olives, lemon rind, parsley. Spread this mixture all around the beef.
3. Oil an oven-safe baking dish. Place the beef in the dish. Bake the beef for 30 minutes.
4. Make the garlic mash:

a) Heat the un-peeled garlic in a pan until the skin turns brown. Squeeze the garlic out of the skin and mash with a fork.

b) Boil potatoes in water for 6-8 minutes or until tender. Drain then mash with a fork.

c) Return the potatoes to the pot and combine with butter then slowly add in milk. Add in the salt and mashed garlic. Mix well.

5. Place a slice of the beef, a generous mound of garlic mash and freshly steamed or boiled corn in the cob or buttered vegetables (peas and carrots).

Roasted Vegetable Risotto

¾ k squash, peeled and chopped
1 capsicum, seeded and sliced
1 squash blossom (optional)
5 big tomatoes
3 leeks, halved
¼ c olive oil
2 tbsp fresh thyme
2 tbsp chives
freshly cracked black pepper
5½ c chicken stock
2 tbsp olive oil
2 c Arborio rice or *dinorado* rice
1 tbsp fresh rosemary leaves
2 tsp lemon rind

ROASTED Vegetable Risotto

¾ c grated parmesan cheese
Salt and pepper to taste

1. Preheat oven to 400°F. Place the squash, tomatoes and leeks on a baking tray and drizzle with olive oil. Sprinkle with thyme, salt and pepper.
2. Prick the tomatoes with a fork and then bake the vegetables for 35 minutes or until they become tender.
3. Prepare the risotto:

–Heat oil in a large sauce pan then add in the rice, rosemary, lemon rind and sauté the mixture over medium heat for 3-4 minutes.

–Add in a cup of the chicken stock to the rice and each time the broth is completely absorbed by the rice. Stir the mixture constantly.

–The rice should be creamy and soft by the time the last cup of stock has been absorbed. If the rice is still hard, add a cup of boiling water at a time until you get creamy rice.

–Fold in the parmesan cheese, salt and pepper.

4. Place a portion of risotto on a deep plate and top with roasted vegetables. Sprinkle an extra serving of parmesan cheese on top.

Fresh Shrimp Mediterranean Salad

300 g French beans, halved and boiled
400 g prawns, peeled, with tails still attached, and boiled
150 g spinach/watercress leaves
150 g lettuce
2 large tomatoes sliced
¾ c pitted black olives
¼ c capers
Fresh basil leaves
A few sprigs of cilantro
Generous portion of Feta cheese, crumbled
¾ c olive oil
juice of 1 lemon
3 tbsp balsamic vinegar
Salt and pepper to taste

1. Toss together spinach/watercress with lettuce. Place on a plate.
2. Place tomatoes and mozzarella cheese on top.
3. Sprinkle olives, capers and basil leaves on top.
4. Position prawns at the topmost.
5. Combine olive oil, balsamic vinegar and juice of 1 lemon in a bowl then drizzle this on top of your salad.
6. Sprinkle salt and freshly cracked pepper before eating.

Rustan's Fresh Supermarkets are in Ayala Center, Makati; Rockwell Power Plant Mall; Gateway Mall, Cubao; Shangri-La Plaza, Edsa; Greenbelt 1; San Antonio Plaza, Forbes Park; Magallanes; Katipunan Road and Corinthian Hills.

CEO's go green to save Earth

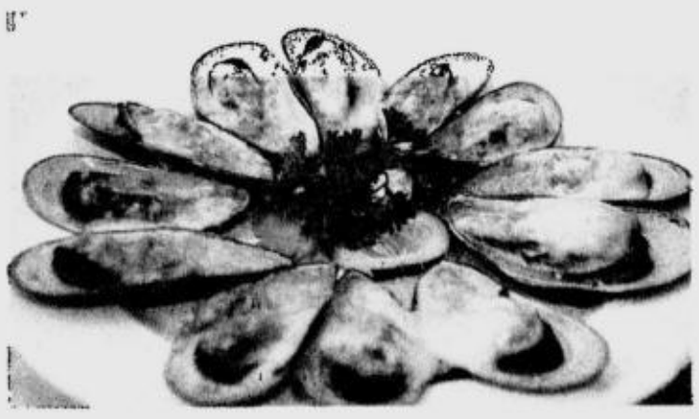
FOR THIS YEAR'S CORPORATE SOCIAL RESponsibility Expo to be held July 16-18 at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza, the League of Corporate Foundations (LCF) is dedicating the whole of July 18 to the environment.

Figaro CEO Chit U. Juan, Day 3 coordinator, invites all decision-makers for a "Live Green" lunch.

Snippets of Al Gore's famous documentary "An Inconvenient Truth" will be shown, with annotations and references to the Philippine scenario by Lorenzo Tan, president of World Wildlife Fund Philippines. Moderating will be Elisea Gozun, United Nations awardee for the environment, with panelists Paul Aquino, president and CEO of PNOC-EDC, and Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla.

The special lunch to be prepared by Hotel Sofitel Philippine Plaza's chefs will be limited to just 200 guests. Proceeds will start off the LCF Environment Fund.

Call 7573500 local 306; or e-mail mkcanoy@teamasia.com.



THE BOUNTY OF IPANEMA

Bossa Nova and pretty girls with eternal tans are usually top of mind when you hear the word "Ipanema" but a busy bar and restaurant in Eastwood City is changing all that. Praia de Ipanema Bar and Restaurant is the fun hangout that barflies and party people now frequent for great music and an amazing variety of drinks and bar chows. Drinkers and diners love their Mariscos de Baihana, fresh mussels baked in garlic, butter and cheese. This melt-in-your-mouth dish is a juicy and tasty treat best enjoyed with ice-cold beer while listening to the regular live band gigs at the Eastwood Central Plaza. Call 4217765 or text 0917-8EWCITY.

Savory chicken soup for rainy days

THE RAINS ARE HERE AND THEY BRING ON a hunger for steaming hot soup with the home-cooked goodness of Mother's kitchen creations.

To satisfy that rainy-day craving, Jollibee unveils its latest offering.

The Jollibee Molo Meatball Soup is everything *molo* soup should be, and more. Clear, savory broth is served steaming hot. The pork meatballs are seasoned just right for the Pinoy taste. They are made more filling and flavorful with pieces of *molo* wrapper, strips of sauteed chicken, and toppings of crunchy garlic and chopped spring onion.

Made from the freshest ingredients, as all Jollibee products are, and served in generous portions to satisfy big appetites, the new Molo Meatball Soup is another value-for-money offer that is bound to please on its own or in tandem with Jollibee meals.

The new treat has a purse-friendly price of P27 solo and P25 if ordered together with a value meal.

The all-new Molo Meatball Soup is available in Metro Manila and Luzon stores and soon in all Jollibee branches nationwide.

JOLLIBEE Molo Meatball Soup

LIVE Green Lunch to be prepared by Hotel Sofitel Philippine Plaza: Creamy Tagaytay Pumpkin Soup with herb croutons, Tagaytay Garden Vegetables, Roasted "free range" Spring Chicken with Tarragon Sauce, and Whipped Potatoes and Vanilla Crême Brûlèe.

24/7 fast food hosts race

NOCTURNAL WORKERS, PARTY NIGHT owls and insomniac homebodies will be pleased to know that McDonald's is now open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Drive-through and delivery are also available 24/7.

The fastfood chain's 24/7 stores are located at some of the busiest areas in the metro such as Airport Road, Alabang, Baclaran Rotonda, Baclaran Redemptorist, Banaue, Bankmer, Barangka, Binondo, Buendia, Caltex Slex, CDO Divisoria, Cebu Jones, Davao Bajada, Eastwood, Edsa Panay, El Pueblo, Emerald, Evangelista and Farmer's Plaza, among many others.

"No other quick-service restaurant offers such a relevant innovation, says McDonald's vice president for marketing Margot Torres.

As part of the launch of the campaign Mac Tonight, McDonald's also announces the Mac Tonight Mad Dash.

This fun-filled, exciting activity requires 24 teams composed of two contestants each to race around 24 McDonald's 24-hour stores in 24 hours.

Anyone Filipino citizen between 18-30 years old who makes a minimum P150 McDonald's food purchase from any McDonald's store may submit an application form.

Registration is until July 18. The participants will race through day and night of July 24 and the team that first completes its 24 stops will win P240,000.

A diplomatic . . .

From page C1

30 g ground roasted peanuts
20 g dried shrimps
2g chili powder
2 eggs
2 shallots
8 tbsp cooking oil
Water or stock

Sauce:

60 g palm sugar
5 tbsp fish sauce
6 tbsp tamarind juice

Soak noodles in water for 15 minutes.

Heat up all sauce ingredients in a sauce pan. Stir until sugar dissolves. Set aside.

Fry tofu in hot oil. Add shallots, preserved Chinese radish slices, prawns and noodles.

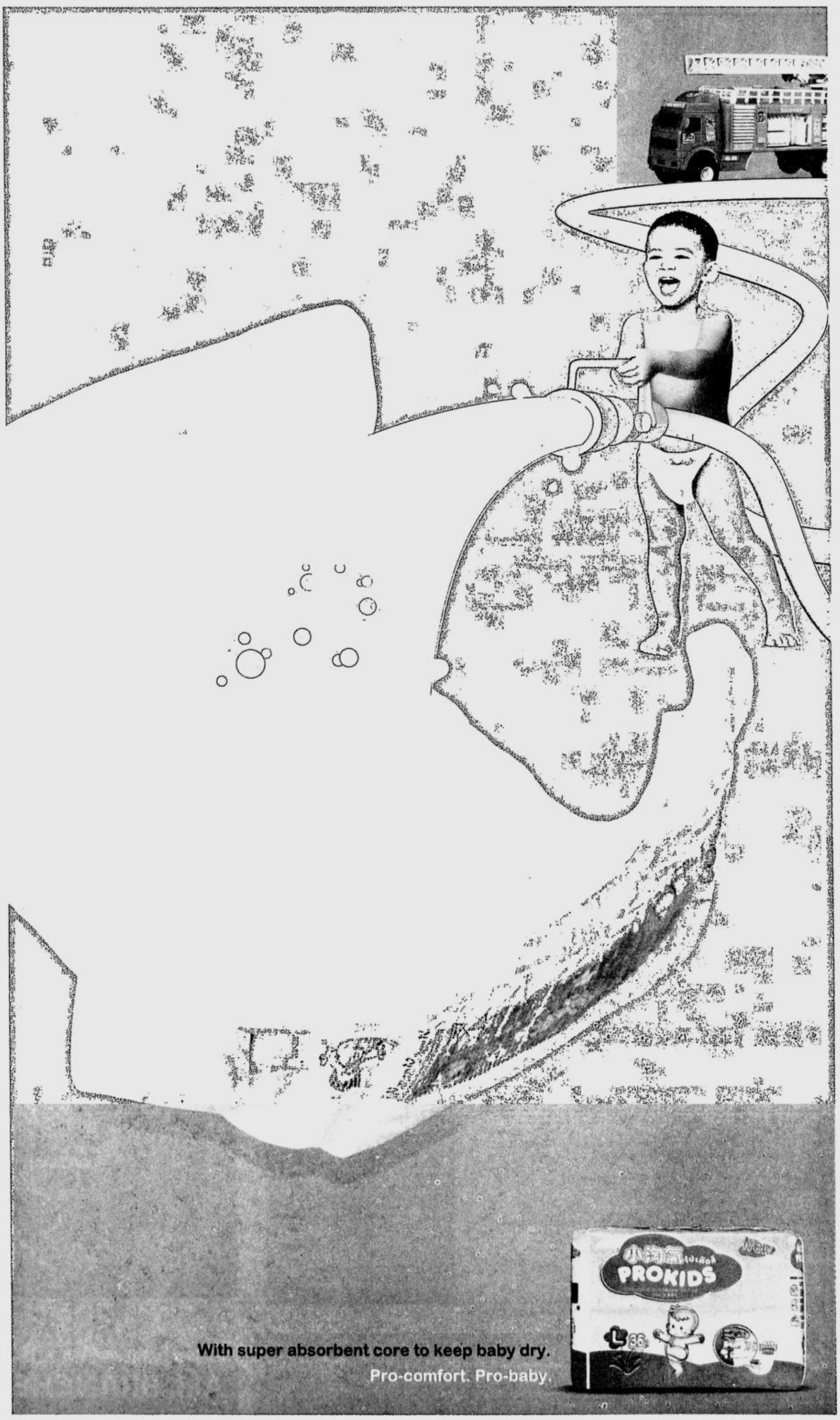
Add some water and sauce. Add peanuts and dried shrimps. Stir well. Set aside on one side of the wok.

Add egg and scramble. When egg has dried out, mix into noodles. Add bean sprouts and Chinese chives. Give a quick stir.

Arrange on a plate garnished with fresh bean sprouts, Chinese chives, a wedge of banana blossom, lime. Pork or chicken can substitute for prawns.

The ALF's Asian Cookbook contains recipes from all over Asia that we all love. You must get a copy. Not only will it make you cook better but the proceeds will also go to a worthy cause. Call 8343036 and 8331320.

E-mail the author at raspiras@inquirer.com.ph.



Restaurant y Dulceria de Paris

de

J. Labedan y C.ª

Manila—26 ESCOLTA 26—Manila

En este acreditado establecimiento se sirven toda clase de comidas á la carta y á domicilio á todas horas del dia.
Reciben encargos para comidas extraordinarias tanto oficiales como particulares, banquetes lunchs, etc. etc. con servicio, esmeradísimo puntualidad y economia.

COCINA FRANCESA

á cargo de un reputado Maestro Francés.

PLATOS ESPECIALES.

Se confeccionan tambien esquisitos y variados dulces, platos montados, ramilletes y cuanto se derée en el ramo de Reposteria y Confiteria, cuyos talleres están á cargo de acreditados maestros europeos.

Sorbetes y refrescos de todas clases, vinos y licores de las mas acreditadas marcas asi Españolas como Extranjeras
Se reciben encargos para provincias. Hay siempre un escojido y escelente surtido en conservas alimenticias frutas legumbres etc. etc de las mejores fábricas de España y del Estranjero.

SERVICIO ORDINARIO EN EL RESTAURANT

Almuerzo. 11½ de la mañana.
Comida 7½ de la noche.

J. Labedan y C.ª
Manila.—26 ESCOLTA 26—Manila.

PRINT advertisement of the Restaurant y Dulceria de Paris

COUNTRY COOKING
Micky Fenix

The French Connection in Pinoy cooking

FELICE PRUDENTE STA. MARIA, author, editor and photographer whose most recent book is "The Governor General's Kitchen," invited me to lunch in an Italian restaurant last week.

Ironically, it was the French influence on Filipino cooking that we mostly talked about. How convenient that Bastille Day is on July 14, a celebration that marks the beginning of the 1789 French revolution.

Perhaps the most enduring item of that influence on our cooking is the sans rival, still the favorite among most cake fans. We pronounce it the un-French way—sans-reeval. I suppose it is our way of saying it is ours now so we can call it whatever we want.

That theory is mine but Felice would have researched and duly cited her sources in her footnotes. She was also generous enough to send me her paper on the subject, "Vive le Difference: Savoring the French Influence on Philippine Cuisine."

She presented it on June 26 at the Ateneo de Manila University to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Philippine-French cultural relations under the sponsorship of the Embassy of France and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

French Malolos banquet

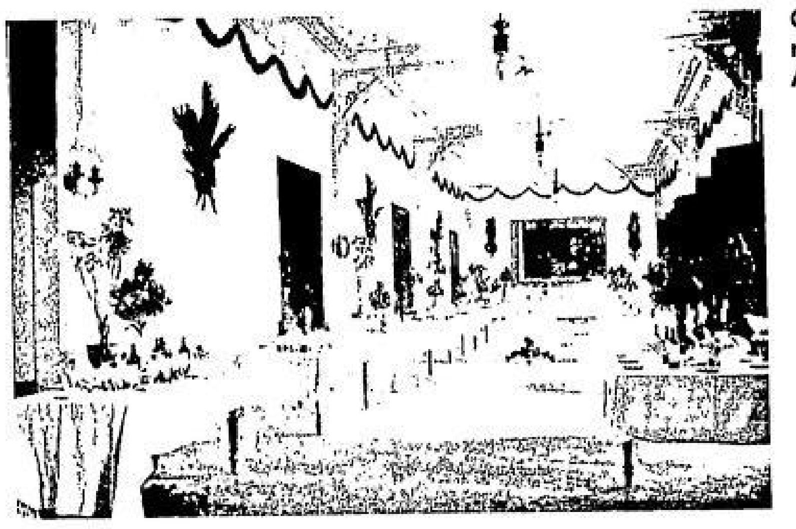
The most tangible proof of that influence were two menu cards, one for lunch and one for dinner on the same day, Sept. 29, 1898, when Philippine independence was ratified by the Malolos Congress. Shaped like the flag, the red, white and blue flaps opened to reveal what was served during those formal events.

Felice wrote that the "Frenchification of Spanish cuisine" was during the 18th century when Spain's Felipe V was on the throne. But it was during "the late 19th century [when] French culture made its mark through art and cuisine."

So formal dining events like the Malolos banquets had to be French. The lunch menu started with hors d'oeuvre some of which were olives, Lyon sausages and salmon with Hollandaise sauce.

Felice described two of the courses: "Vol-au-vent á la Financière, a dish of meat or poultry that should have been made with its characteristic Madeira-flavored sauce and a garnish of cocks' combs and kidneys, lamb sweetbreads, mushrooms, olives and truffles, [and] Filet á la Chateaubriand, thick grilled Porterhouse served with Maitre d'Hôtel parsley butter and thick strips of potatoes cooked in butter."

And for dinner, "the meal began with Consommé de Volaille á la Royale, a chicken broth likely garnished with custard shapes. Parisian mocha ice cream ended the meal. Bordeaux, Sauterne and Champagne wines were served."


COMEDOR. Dining room at the Ayuntamiento

Perhaps to emphasize that we were celebrating our own revolution, the dinner menu contained the French revolution slogan translated into Spanish: *Libertad, Igualdad, Fraternidad.*

How were we exposed to French cooking?

Felice wrote that there were importers of European goods in the 1880s such as La Castellana. "Its French product line included conserves by Teyssoneau Jeune, and Philippe & Canand, as well as high-quality Bordeaux wines, excellent Champagne, Anisette by Marie Brissard, and E. Guittaard & Companie chocolate."

And there was the Restaurant y Dulceria de Paris on Escolta that boasted in its advertisement the service of a French executive chef.

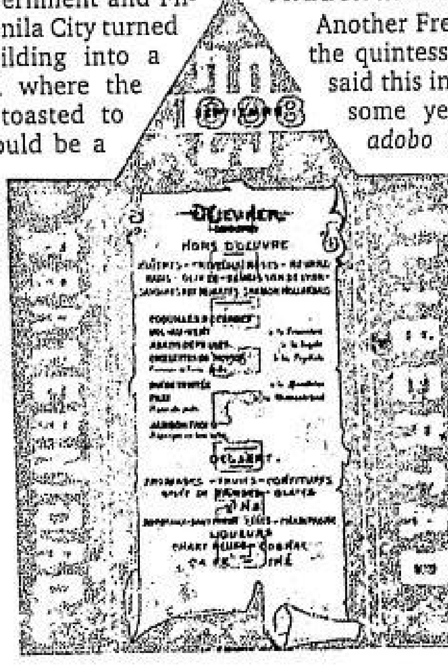
The institution was the best caterer of the time and it was commissioned to do what turned out to be the last major official banquet hosted by the Spanish colonial regime, which was to celebrate "the [1897] Peace Treaty of Biak-na-Bato... negotiated between the colonial government and Filipino rebel forces... Manila City turned the Ayuntamiento building into a one-night wonderland where the Spanish upper crust toasted to what they thought would be a never-ending allegiance and loyalty of the colony."

The Ayuntamiento or Manila City Hall was located in Intramuros on the left side of the Manila Cathedral. The buffet included *foie gras* and sandwiches of potted ham, sausages and ham, nine main dishes, three kinds of ice cream, assorted pastries, several wines, tea, coffee, and cigars.

Did our Filipino *kusineros* have the wherewithal to cook in the French manner at the time?

For the Malolos banquets, Felice mentioned two of them, Emilio Gonzalez and Juan Padilla "whose abilities it is said matched the sophisticated expectations of Filipinos who had traveled to Europe, tasted the best of what the colony could serve, and sought to push the limits of what could be made in Philippine kitchens."

APPETIZER of Saumon Marine at the Sofitel Hotel Bastille Day celebration



ORIGINAL Malolos Banquet lunch menu

Hidden influence

Another French influence is hidden in the quintessential Filipino dish. Felice said this in a seminar on food writing some years back. Not only does *adobo* derive its name from the French *adouber* "which originally meant 'to dress a knight in armor,'" but it is also cousin to the French *daube*, "a stew of braised meat, vegetable, herbs and spices."

Sofitel Philippine Plaza Hotel's Spiral restaurant will have a Bastille Day menu on July 15.

Cheeses like Bleu d'Auvergne, Coeur de Lion, Chaumes, Fourme d'Ambert, Munster and Pont Leveque Pyramid Soignon will be flown in. Expect pâtés and terrines, specialties like Canard Montmorency (braised duck with cherries) and grand dessert creations from visiting pastry chef Hervé le Clanche.

E-mail the author at pinoyfood04@yahoo.com

In an exclusive interview with the TV chefs Rosebud, Darlo, Niño and Tristan, when asked about what CCA, Manila provided them:

Rosebud:" ...the best curriculum which I needed to hone my craft..."

Darlo:" ...skills and knowledge to start a catering business at age 17..."

Niño:" ...discipline to achieve my goal to be a culinarian..."

Tristan:" ...opportunities, directions in life, and the heart. The time of my life!"

At CCA, Manila, we'll make sure you're equipped with fresh and innovative ideas as you face the stage of life.

Pioneer. Professional. Leader. This is CCA, Manila. Conquering the Global Foodscape.

Application and enrollment are on going for the opening of classes in August 2007:

Culinary Arts & Technology Management (1 to 2 years)
Baking-Pastry Arts & Technology Management (1 to 2 years)

For schedules of entrance exams and other details, please call **426-4840** and look for Ms. Agnes Manalaysay or Ms. Jonarry Cruz.

NRAEF ManageFirst PROGRAM

The Education Program for the Next Generation of Foodservice Managers

In 2006, with the launch of the ManageFirst program of the National Restaurant Association Education Foundation (NRAEF), CCA, Manila, together with their group, now offers an industry-based topics such as ServSafe Food Safety, Controlling Foodservice Costs, Human Resources Management and Supervision, Hospitality and Restaurant Management, Restaurant Marketing, Customer Service, and Nutrition.

With ManageFirst and its certifications, you will be distinguished as qualified professionals ready to conquer the global foodscape.

CCA Center for Culinary Arts, Manila

10 Years of Culinary Education Leadership
287 Katipunan Ave. Loyola Heights, Quezon City
Tel. 426-4840 to 41
Fax. 426-4836
Email. marketing@cca-manila.com
Website. www.cca-manila.com

M|ANELS

ALL BRANCHES NATIONWIDE
See posters & print ads for details.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) or email us at entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment

INSIDE

More bods in the bargain bin Rushes /D3

Carmina: That's so not me Dollywood /D3

DUNKIN' DONUTS®

Jelloooow!

Say hello to Dunkin' Donuts Iced Coffee Jelly

Just add P10 to add chewy jelly to your Dunkin' Donuts Iced Coffee.

© 2007 DD IP Holder LLC. All rights reserved.

Franchise of French sitcom on QTV

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

FIVE-MINUTE SKETCHES FEAture office workers who gab away in front of a coffee vendo machine equipped with a hidden camera.

"They are unaware that they are being filmed, so they talk candidly about sex, food, cars," says French producer Henri de Lorme.

This is the concept behind "Camera Café," which became a hit in its native France in 2003 and has been spun off in 30 countries, including Brazil, Canada, Italy, Spain, Greece and Yugoslavia.

Now, "Camera Café" is in the Philippines, its first Asian stop.

Henri tells INQUIRER, "We make a local version in each country. Here, we will have a Filipino director, cast and team of writers."

Director is Mark Meily, with Vince de Jesus, Dinno Errece, Dennis Teodisio, Ray Agapay, Rody Vera, Lisa Magtoto and Gina Tagasa as writers. The cast, led by Bearwin Meily and Jojo Alejar, includes Jaime Fabregas, Giselle Sanchez, Joy Viado and LJ Reyes, among others.

"The original had 15 characters; our version will have 17," says Mark. "We added a *balikbayan* and a *manang* (old lady). In almost all Filipino offices, we have a *manang* who delivers food and DVDs."

Mark says the local production had to follow the show's "bible" to the letter. "Like all franchise shows, 'Camera Café' has a manual, in which everything is specified," he explains.

Henri hooked up with Mark through theater actor Melvin Lee.

"I was so happy to meet a director who speaks French," recalls Henri (Mark studied in Paris for a year). "He [also] has a sense of rhythm—very important in directing quick, short sketches."

The local "Camera Café," like its foreign versions, is being earmarked for release through the Internet (Video iPod) and mobile phones.

PRODUCER Henri de Lorme goofs around with director Mark Meily on the set of "Camera Café."

"We start shooting next month, for possible airing in September on QTV," says Henri. "The show's creator Alain Kappauf will visit us on the set."

The show will be aired thrice a day—a new episode at night, replayed the following morning and afternoon. Compared to hour-long "funnies," Mark notes, a five-minute sitcom just might revive the moribund TV comedy scene.

KID FIT

THE STAGES and Trumpets Playshop's production of Disney's "High School Musical" has been extended. The last two weekend runs are on July 14 and 21 (3 p.m. and 8 p.m.) and July 15 and 22 (3 p.m.) at the Meralco Theater. "High School Musical" stars Sam Concepcion, Cheska Ortega, Alex Godinez, PJ Valerio, Kakki Teodoro and Steve Ching, under the direction of Audie Gemora. Call 891-9999 or 818-1111 loc. 209 or 225.

GLOBAL ACADEMY
CULINARY & HOSPITALITY

Now is the time to take advantage of the opportunity and learn from the experts. Protect your Passion. Become a Professional. Embark on your global career with the fastest growing team in Culinary & Hospitality education.

A World Class Chef. Dream it. Believe it. Become it.

BIG DISCOUNT AWAITS EARLY BIRDS!

Courses Offered:

GRANDE DIPLOMA IN PROFESSIONAL CULINARY ARTS, BAKING & PASTRY
course begins: September 4, September 25

DIPLOMA IN PROFESSIONAL CULINARY ARTS
course begins: September 4, September 25

DIPLOMA IN PROFESSIONAL BAKING & PASTRY ARTS
course begins: October 2

CERTIFICATE IN BASIC PROFESSIONAL COOKING
(*up to 20% off*)
course begins: July 17 Morning Schedule (8 sessions)

2/F Amber Square, Don Eschiva Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, The Philippines
TELEFAX 638 61 83 TELEPHONE 638 59 49 www.globalacademyph.com

NO TRICKS
This is for real. British actors (from left) Rupert Grint, Daniel Radcliffe and Emma Watson—famous young wizards of the "Harry Potter" movies—have their hand prints made during a ceremony in their honor (a treat reserved for the biggest movie stars) in front of the Chinese Theatre in Hollywood. AFP

MTRCB chides Solar, GMA 7

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE MOVIE AND TELEVISION REVIEW AND Classification Board (MTRCB) has reprimanded GMA 7 for a violation committed by its talent Rufa Mae Quinto on the noontime variety show, "SOP."

The board also suspended the airing of Solar Entertainment's "Jack TV" and "Mad TV" for several days, for infractions committed on the shows' June 25 episodes.

Board Chair Marissa Laguardia, in a memorandum dated July 4, said GMA 7 had violated MTRCB rules in "baring/exposing" Quinto's breast during the July 1 episode of "SOP."

In a meeting attended by four network officials on July 5 at the MTRCB office, Quinto said she used adhesive tape on the gown she wore on the show to make sure it stayed in place, but that the adhesive wore off because she had sweated a lot.

Camera crew warned

Laguardia argued that the director should have moved "to avoid the airing of the exposed breast." Board member Zosimo Allegre added that the cameraman should not have filmed the offending sight at all.

GMA 7 vice president for program management Joey Abacan apologized for the incident. In a letter, Abacan said, "We are instructing our ... crew to be more alert [about] potential sensitive scenes."

Meanwhile, the board suspended the airing of "WWE Vengeance 2006" on Jack TV for seven days beginning July 9. This was due to a complaint lodged against the show's June 25 episode in which "a wrestler was forced to kiss his opponent's behind."

Also, the board said Solar's "Mad TV" violated the rules by airing on June 25, between 12 noon and 1 p.m., a scene where "a woman kept touching the breast of another woman."

"Mad TV" will not be shown for five days, also beginning July 9.

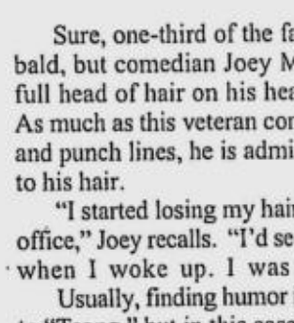
"You tend to look older with less hair... Nobody wants to look old."

Sure, one-third of the famous Three Stooges was bald, but comedian Joey Marquez prefers to keep a full head of hair on his head, thank you very much. As much as this veteran comic can endure many gags and punch lines, he is admittedly vain when it comes to his hair.

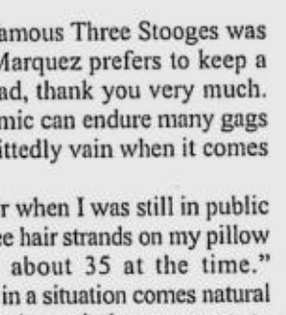
"I started losing my hair when I was still in public office," Joey recalls. "I'd see hair strands on my pillow when I woke up. I was about 35 at the time."

Usually, finding humor in a situation comes natural to "Tsong," but in this case, he took the comments to heart. "People started teasing me about it. They even called me monsignor because my bald spot was increasing to the size of a monsignor's cap! I've been a comedian for a long time, so I'm used to being the butt of jokes. But I admit, I can still be quite conscious of my appearance. You tend to look older with less hair. And nobody wants to look old. I'd rather be seen as classic, not old!"

When a friend recommended Svenson, Joey was hesitant at first. "I thought they sold wigs. And I'd rather die than wear a wig! When I was told it wasn't, I agreed to try it out. After only 3 to 6 treatments, I saw a big difference because the hair fall lessened." It was also at Svenson where a lot of Joey's own hairloss misconceptions were cleared, one being the cause of his hairloss.



A trichologist examines a client



Makati Center Mngr. Teresa Cruz

There are a lot of myths on why hairloss occurs, some even as outrageous as "tight hats being the cause of baldness." What's the truth? According to Svenson Makati Center Manager Teresa Cruz, "In most cases, it's genetically connected. It can also be because of stress, a harsh chemical, scalp problem, poor diet, hormonal imbalance, thyroid problems and other illnesses. There are many possible reasons for thinning hair."

In Joey's case, it was a case of stress-induced hair fall. Ms. Cruz narrates, "With Mr. Marquez, it is basically stress-related. He started losing his hair in his 30's, and he was still in politics at the time it happened. The stress from that made his hair fall off little by little. It wouldn't have stopped unless he had treatments done."

Ms. Cruz recalls Joey's first encounter in Svenson. "He came to us last year, that was September of 2006. I explained to him that we at first had to correct the hair fall by creating a healthy scalp environment. The initial step is corrective, which normalizes the hair fall. It has the functions of cleaning the follicle and lessening the hair fall, but the main action of this is to remove the accumulated waste matter or debris caused by environmental exposure or chemicals used. On his 6th application, since he told me that his hair fall had already reduced, I recommended that he should immediately start the Tricho-DHT Inhibitor, which would neutralize the dihydrotestosterone, which is the main culprit when it comes to hairloss."

What also made Joey the "perfect" client was the fact that he was religious in applying the take-home treatments. "It's very important to be very religious in the application of the treatments," Ms. Cruz says. "Some clients stop as soon as they see improvement. Then they complain if the hair problems recur. It is best to complete the program as advised. Here at Svenson, we monitor each client's case and make sure they are getting the appropriate treatments to prevent their hair and scalp problems from recurring or getting worse."

The impressive results on Joey's hair increased awareness on hairloss and its solutions. Ms. Cruz boasts of Svenson's special formula: "I'm very proud of our treatments because they are not drug-based. So the scalp doesn't become dependent on it. Ours is herbal in nature. They come in a program but they're not something that the person becomes dependent on. That's what makes it different from other treatments that you can just buy over-the-counter."

An obvious testament of Svenson's results is seen on top of Joey Marquez's head. And it looks like no one's going to be calling him "monsignor" again any time soon.

For a free consultation at Svenson, call 892-HAIR (4247).

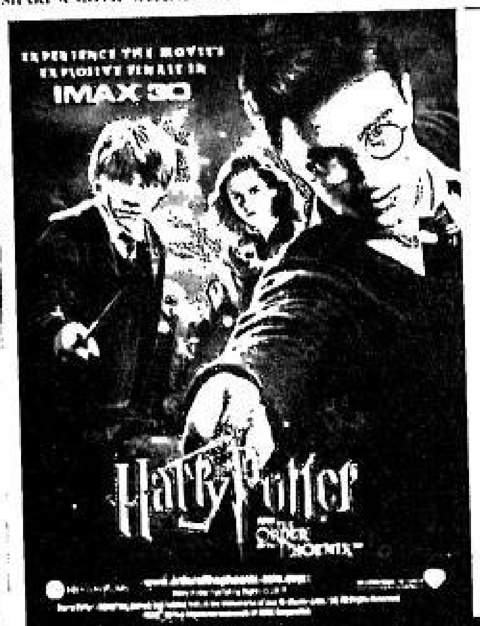
SM CINEMA — moviietime SHOWTIME

SHARE A MOVIE WITH A LOVED ONE

VISIT WWW.SMCINEMA.COM
* Powered by WWW.YEHEY.COM

Your life as a movie

BIG MOVIES • BIG STARS • BIG SHOWS • BIG EVENTS



Don't miss the most anticipated movie event of the year!

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix

Experience the movie's explosive finale in **IMAX 3D** at

SAN MIGUEL Coca-Cola IMAX THEATRE

Tickets now available.

P 350 (Monday to Thursday, before 5pm)
P 400 (Monday to Thursday, 5pm onwards, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, Holiday whole day)

Please call 556-IMAX (4629) or 556 0242 for inquiries and reservations.

NOW SHOWING

SCREENING TIME	JULY 12 THURSDAY	JULY 13 FRIDAY	JULY 14 SATURDAY	JULY 15 SUNDAY	JULY 16 MONDAY	JULY 17 TUESDAY	JULY 18 WEDNESDAY
11:00 AM	OPEN	OPEN	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
2:00 PM	OPEN	OPEN	FEW SEATS	FEW SEATS	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
5:00 PM	OPEN	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	FEW SEATS	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
8:00 PM	[illegible]	FEW SEAT	FEW SEATS	FEW SEATS	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
11:00 PM	OPEN	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN

Subject to change without prior notice. You may also call your nearest SM Cinema branch and The Podium Cinema for their respective advance ticket selling screening schedules.

METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104
SAN MIGUEL Coca-Cola IMAX
HARRY POTTER V
11:00AM 2:00PM 5:00PM
8:00PM 11:00PM
Admission Prices:
Matinee P 350 • Prime P 400

1 HARRY POTTER V
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 HARRY POTTER V
5 DIE HARD 4
6 TIYANAKS

PREMIERE CINEMA
HARRY POTTER V

CENTERSTAGE
HARRY POTTER V

THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
HARRY POTTER V
CINEMA 2
HARRY POTTER V
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 HARRY POTTER V
5 DIE HARD 4
6 HARRY POTTER V
7 HARRY POTTER V
8 TRANSFORMERS
9 TIYANAKS
10 DIE HARD 4
11 HARRY POTTER V
12 TRANSFORMERS

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 HARRY POTTER V
5 HARRY POTTER V
6 DIE HARD 4
7 TRANSFORMERS
8 FANTASTIC FOUR/ PARAISO
9 TRANSFORMERS
10 HARRY POTTER V
11 DIE HARD 4
12 TIYANAKSR V

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 PARAISO
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 HARRY POTTER V
6 DIE HARD 4
7 HARRY POTTER V
8 TIYANAKS
9 HARRY POTTER V
10 HARRY POTTER V
11 TRANSFORMERS
12 DIE HARD 4

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 DIE HARD 4
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 HARRY POTTER V
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
7 TRANSFORMERS
8 PARAISO
9 DIE HARD 4
10 TIYANAKS

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 TIYANAKS
5 DIE HARD 4
6 TRANSFORMERS

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 HARRY POTTER V
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 TRANSFORMERS
7 DIE HARD 4
8 DIE HARD 4
9 TIYANAKS

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 DIE HARD 4
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 DIE HARD 4
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 HARRY POTTER V
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 HARRY POTTER V
7 TIYANAKS
8 HARRY POTTER V
9 TRANSFORMERS
10 HARRY POTTER V
11 FANTASTIC FOUR
12 DIE HARD 4

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 DIE HARD 4
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 HARRY POTTER V

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 DIE HARD 4
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 DIE HARD 4
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 TRANSFORMERS

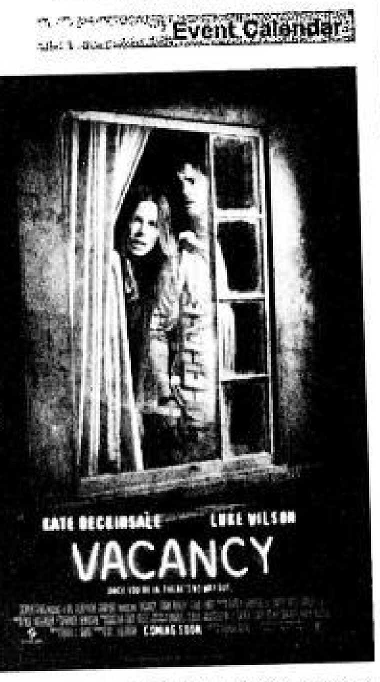
movietime RED CARPET PREMIERE

Event Calendar

COLUMBIA PICTURES and THE PODIUM CINEMA together with MAX invite you to the

VACANCY
Red Carpet Premiere
JULY 17, 2007 (Tuesday)
The Podium Cinema 2 • 7:30 p.m.

Strictly by invitation only. Tune in to 103.5 Max FM on how to score FREE invites.
No invites will be sold in advance or at the gates on event day.
REGULAR SHOWING STARTS JULY 18
MTRCB Rating: PG-13



LUZON

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 DIE HARD 4
6 HARRY POTTER V
7 TIYANAKS
8 PARAISO

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 DIE HARD 4
5 TIYANAKS
6 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 HARRY POTTER V

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 DIE HARD 4
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 TIYANAKS

SM CIY LIPA (043) 784-0187
1 DIE HARD 4
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 DIE HARD 4
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 HARRY POTTER V

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 DIE HARD 4
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 HARRY POTTER V

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 DIE HARD 4
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 TIYANAKS
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 HARRY POTTER V

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 HARRY POTTER V

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 HARRY POTTER V
5 HARRY POTTER V
6 HARRY POTTER V
7 TIYANAKS
8 DIE HARD 4

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 HARRY POTTER V
6 TIYANAKS
7 DIE HARD 4
8 HARRY POTTER V

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

MMTA — METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER - 5
2 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER - 5
3 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER - 5
4 (DOLBY) DIE HARD 4.0 / HARRY POTTER - 5
PREMIERE (DOLBY) TRANSFORMERS / HARRY POTTER - 5

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 HARRY POTTER - 5
2 HARRY POTTER - 5
3 HARRY POTTER - 5
4 DIE HARD 4.0

Starmall EDSA • SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 HARRY POTTER - 5
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) TRANSFORMERS
5 RESERVED

metropolis star / cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504288, 5433994
1 TIYANAKS
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 HARRY POTTER - 5
4 DIE HARD 4.0

THEATRES
1 HARRY POTTER - 5
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD 4.0

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
1 HARRY POTTER - 5
2 DIE HARD 4.0
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 HARRY POTTER - 5
2 HARRY POTTER - 5
3 HARRY POTTER - 5
4 HARRY POTTER - 5
5 HARRY POTTER - 5
6 TRANSFORMERS
7 DIE HARD 4.0
8 TIYANAKS
9 DIE HARD 4.0
10 TRANSFORMERS

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341527
1 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER - 5
2 (DOLBY) DIE HARD 4.0
3 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER - 5
4 (DOLBY) TRANSFORMERS

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) DIE HARD 4.0
2 HARRY POTTER - 5
3 TIYANAKS
4 HARRY POTTER - 5
5 TRANSFORMERS

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 HARRY POTTER - 5
2 HARRY POTTER - 5
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4.0

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 TIYANAKS
2 HARRY POTTER - 5
3 DIE HARD 4.0

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 DIE HARD 4.0
2 HARRY POTTER - 5

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 HARRY POTTER - 5
2 DIE HARD 4.0
3 HARRY POTTER - 5
4 TRANSFORMERS

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TIYANAKS

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER - 5
2 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER - 5
3 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER - 5
4 DIE HARD 4.0/HARRY POTTER - 5

CINEMA 2000 — Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 DIE HARD - 5
2 HARRY POTTER - 5
3 HARRY POTTER - 5
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111145
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 DIE HARD 4.0/HARRY POTTER-5
2 TIYANAKS
3 HARRY POTTER - 5

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 HARRY POTTER - 5
2 TIYANAKS
3 DIE HARD 4.0
4 TRANSFORMERS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 HARRY POTTER - 5
2 HARRY POTTER - 5
3 DIE HARD 4.0

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 DIE HARD 4.0
2 HARRY POTTER - 5

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4746
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 WILDERNESS

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 WILDERNESS
2 SUKDULAN
3 MAHAROT
4 HARRY POTTER - 5

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 TIYANAKS
2 ANAKAN MO AKO
3 DIE HARD 4.0
4 HARRY POTTER - 5
5 HARRY POTTER - 5

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 DIE HARD 4.0
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TIYANAKS
4 HARRY POTTER - 5

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 HIRAM
2 PLEASE CALL

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 HARRY POTTER: ORDER OF THE PHOENIX MTRCB GP 11:45, 2:40, 5:35
DIE HARD 4 (PG-13) 11:25

2 HARRY POTTER: ORDER OF THE PHOENIX MTRCB GP 12:15, 3:10, 6:05, 9:00

3 HARRY POTTER: ORDER OF THE PHOENIX MTRCB GP 11:15 2:10, 5:05, 10:55

4 HARRY POTTER: ORDER OF THE PHOENIX MTRCB GP 12:45 3:40, 6:35, 9:30

PREMIERE THEATRE — HARRY POTTER: ORDER OF THE PHOENIX 1:15, 4:10, 7:05, 10:00

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

Catch the Cineplex Special

A Blockbuster Gift for all Season
The Shang Cineplex Gift Certificates
Treat your family and friends to a thrilling movie experience only at the shang.
Cinema Treats- for Cinemas 1, 2, 3, and 4
Premiere Rewards- for the Premiere Theatre

6th floor, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
EDSA corner Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Call 633-7851, loc. 171/ 170 or 633-2227 for more details.

Shangri-La Plaza

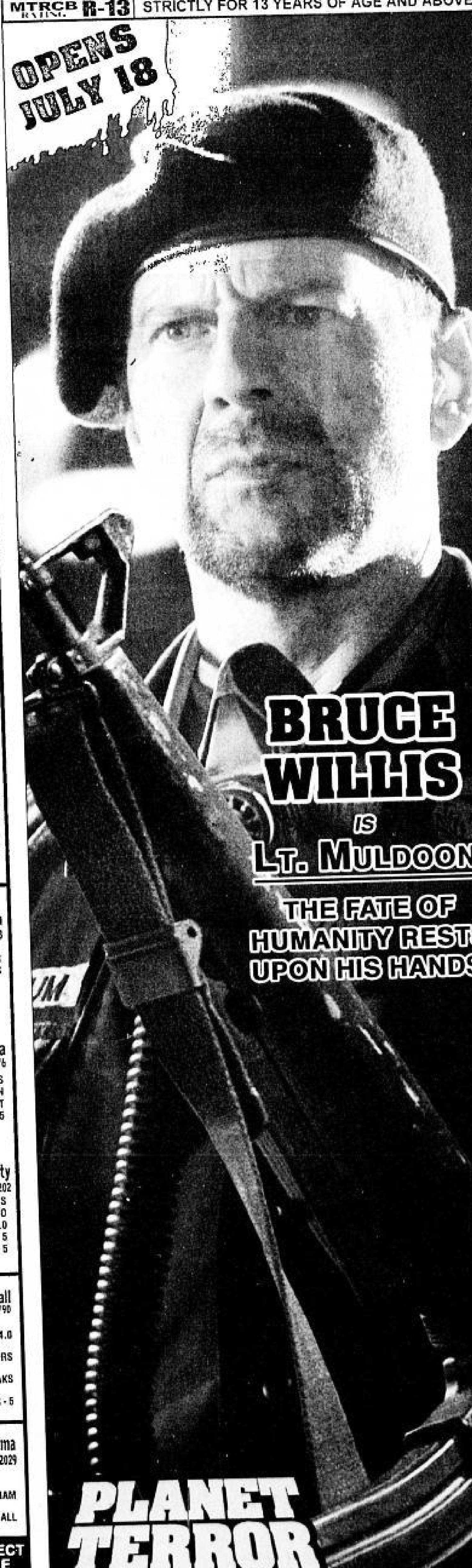
POWER PLANT CINEMA

ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL: 898-1440/41
DOLBY DIGITAL

HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX G 1:15,4:10,7:05,10:00	HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX G 12:15,3:10,6:05,9:00	HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX G 11:45,2:40,5:35,8:30
HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX G 12:45,3:40,6:35,9:30	DIE HARD 4.0 PG13 - 12:45,2:25 HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX - G 5:05/8:00	HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX G 1:45,4:40,7:35,10:30

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE



Pops and Martin on the warpath again

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

IT'S SAD THAT MY BOSOM FRIEND **POPS Fernandez** and her ex-hubby **Martin Nievera** are at odds with each other. It took a long time for their love to revert to friendship, but it looks like that friendship is about to crack.

Trouble began when Martin's partner **Katrina Ojeda** called Robin and Ram (Pops and Martin's kids) "monkeys." To think that Pipay is gracious enough to store Santino's (Katrina and Martin's firstborn) pic on her cell phone. The incident happened years ago but Pipay learned about it only recently. Katrina may have said it in jest, but aren't some jokes half-meant? No mom finds such "jokes" funny.

It's always a touchy matter, dealing with the kids of your partner from a previous relationship. But Katrina must know by now that Martin cannot divorce himself from Robin and Ram. For her, the two boys are daily reminders of a chapter in Martin's life that she wishes him to forget. That's not doable.

If she can't be kind, at least she should be civil—not just when Robin and Ram are around or when people are looking.

Now that Katrina is a mom, too, she should know what it's like to shield a child from the cruel world. Funny she should call Robin and Ram monkeys! Doesn't that make her beloved Martin "Daddy Monkey"?

Not Mina!

Carmina Villaroel immediately texted me after reading my column about the sex video of her look-alike circulating in cyberspace: "Thank you so much for defending me. *Nakakaloka! Ako, may* sex video? Wow! *May mga tao talagang walang magawa. Deadma lang kami ni* Zoren. Jusme! *Sa tagal na namin sa* business *na 'to*! We really need to be patient and understanding. *Wala namang maniniwala* so why should I care? I know the truth and that's the most important thing."

Mina asked me to forward the video to her. That's how cool she is about the hot issue. Her conscience is clear so she shouldn't worry about what she does in the dark.

Jedi Jed

In the singing arena, **Jed Madela** may be considered a Jedi of sorts. The *muy simpatico* Ilonggo can sing almost any song, and so he has earned the moniker "The Voice."

Just like a Jedi, he has won every imaginable (singing) battle. President Arroyo has even awarded him with a plaque of distinction and honor for all the glory he has brought to the country.

Catch Jed in his birthday concert on Saturday, July 14, 8:30 p.m. at the Metro Concert Bar.

"I bought myself an iPhone for my birthday but I still can't use it here," Jed told me.

Too bad for him. On the bright side, at least his golden voice will be conserved for singing rather than making *telebabad*.

Clueless

Diether Ocampo is clueless about the status of the annulment of his marriage to **Kristine Hermosa**. There's talk that it has been granted.

"I haven't received any notification," Diet says. "Maybe the solicitor general can enlighten us about it."

Come to think of it, it doesn't really matter because Diether is willing to marry Kristine again many times over. Live, love, remarry!

IS THAT HARRY POTTER? Looks like. But it's Ryan Agoncillo, right, dressed in a Hogwarts uniform, provided by the local Potter fan group Pinoy Harry Potter. With him is reader Adrian Arcega.

POPS FERNANDEZ

Potter look-alike

Adrian Arcega, who sent me an e-mail noting the striking resemblance between Ryan Agoncillo and Harry Potter, proved his point by sending this picture of Ryan dressed as Harry.

Adrian said the local Potter fan group (http://www.hogwartsphilippines.org) gave Ryan a Hogwarts uniform to wear to the Phil Sci Fi and Fantasy Convention. He showed up!

E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com.

Extraordinary yet mundane 'Heroes'

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

THEY DON'T WEAR FLASHY costumes, but the super-powered characters of the TV show "Heroes" seem to always get into trouble—which is typical of their colorful, comic book kindred.

The drama created by Tim Kring ("Crossing Jordan," "Misfits of Science") is about regular Joes and Janes who suddenly discover that they each specialize in doing the impossible.

The concept of extraordinary humans involved in conspiracies seems derived from "X-Men" and "The X-Files," but the first season of "Heroes" expands its own mythology.

The gifted

Some of the gifted characters introduced in Season One are the Japanese space-time teleporter Hiro (Masi Oka), the power-copycat Peter Petrelli (Milo Ventimiglia), the stripper/secret mercenary Niki (Ali Larter), the telepathic cop Matt Parker (Greg Grunberg) and the rapidly healing cheerleader Claire (Hayden Panettiere). Keeping tabs on them are Mr. Bennet (Jack Coleman), an agent of a covert cabal, and Professor Mohinder Suresh (Sendhil Ramamurthy), whose investigation of his father's murder leads him to a secret catalogue of super-humans.

"Heroes" episodes borrow heavily from comic book situations and formats and, in this season called "Volume One," each episode ends with a cliffhanger.

The show is structured to give equal exposure to each of the more than a dozen characters. Its sweeping saga has allowed for interesting characterizations. Though they take too long sometimes, certain episodes can win comic book readers and nonfantasy audiences over

Hiro, Claire and Peter are among the most developed and deftly written personalities in the bunch. Their discovery and acceptance of their special abilities are journeys that viewers can easily relate to.

The good guys and gals have a constant adversary, in the form of Sylar (Zachary Quinto), an elusive super creep reminiscent of the recurring uber-villains of "Buffy" and "X-Files."

The series has more than enough characters to explore to keep every episode busy and lively, in spite of predictably conceived and unspectacularly executed arcs, episodes that suffer from anticlimactic editing.

The script and voice-over narration that summarize each episode's philosophical bent are hits and misses. But the cast is attractive and endearing.

Noble epiphanies

While not truly mind-blowing (yet), "Heroes," currently airing on a number of channels, has proven in its first season that it's able to mine its potential.

The definition of hero also extends to those who tread the line between being brave and stupid, people who don't necessarily defy the laws of physics but are willing to risk their lives despite the danger.

Big themes like self-sacrifice and noble epiphanies are not exactly trumpeted, so many story details still work effectively. Many of the real heroes are revealed near the end of Volume One, and there are nifty surprises for those patient enough to go through this entire conflict-filled journey.

Don't try to make him cry

CHEER FACTOR

KARLOVY VARY, CZECH REPUBlic—American actor Danny DeVito was awarded a Crystal Globe at the closing ceremony of the international Karlovy Vary film festival on Saturday in recognition of his lifetime contribution to cinema.

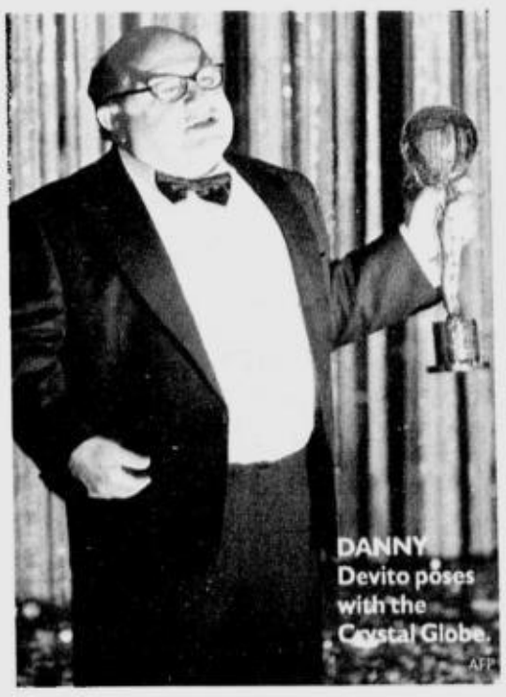
"Don't try to make me cry," pleaded the diminutive Hollywood actor as he fought back tears during a standing ovation for his achievements as an actor, producer and director in more than 100 films since 1968.

True to his reputation as a comedian, DeVito grabbed his Crystal Award and congratulated himself, saying, "At least I can have a bit of exercise [with] this big ball."

During a press con the previous day, he said, "I adore making films, it is the thing I enjoy the most in the world apart from cooking pasta."

The 63-year-old actor enjoyed lavishing the press with numerous anecdotes about his Hollywood life, including how he used his celebrity to dodge fines from transport police; how "Milos Forman cooks very well, but he eats everything that moves"; and how "Arnold Schwarzenegger is bitten every night by the vampire of politics."

AFP



DANNY Devito poses with the Crystal Globe. AFP

Bods in the bargain bin and a co-star turned stalker

RUSHES

RUSHES RECEIVED THIS TEXT MESSAGE from Amalia Fuentes: "He (husband Joey Stevens) is now out of my house … I will proceed to ask the court for spousal and child support, pending the judicial settlement of assets."

Last time we heard from Stevens, he said he was still trying to work things out with his furious wife. Actually, "furious" doesn't begin to cover it. Amalia has been describing Joey in such colorful terms lately, for example: "a dog who had a bone but wanted more than he could chew," and a "relic" who should be deposited in a home for the aged. Let us never cross the woman.

Tiya Pusit now okay

Good news from Tiya Pusit: She can again see with her left eye. "My doctors, Amadeus Veloso and Robert Ang of the Asian Eye Institute, said my vision is now 30/20 and I can stop taking medication."

Bad news about Tiya Pusit: Her GMA 7 sitcom, "Bahay Mo Ba 'To," has been axed.

More good news: She is busy with plenty of live shows, mostly organized by doctors.

And the best part: She has made peace with "Star Talk" host Joey de Leon. "I should forgive," she says, "or else I can't really heal."

From co-star to stalker

A young actress complained that her male co-star's unwelcome attention had verged on sexual harassment.

Things have worsened: She says the very much married man has become a full-fledged stalker. The troubled girl said she went on a date recently and the jilted co-star was hot on her trail.

Bods in the bargain bin

One graduate of a talent search, notorious for being a troublemaker, has been having cash-flow problems. The poor guy has resorted to turning tricks.

According to the gay grapevine, he hangs out in certain seedy corners in Pasay City and renders services of a specific kind for only P2,500.

At least, this other one, a movie hunk, sold his wares, not in his backyard but out of town: After a legitimate engagement in Tarlac, he had a one-night-stand with a gay man who proceeded to boast that he paid the hunk only P3,000!

Which makes this third (former) hunk's decision laudable: While his batch mates have turned to the oldest profession, he has turned his back on show biz and is now working as a waiter in a five-star hotel.

AMY PEREZ

Top of the talk shows

For those who missed last weekend's editions:

• Gretchen Barretto on partner Tonyboy Cojuangco's health: "He's okay *na. Salamat sa lahat ng* prayers *ninyo*." As we go to press, though, we are told Tonyboy is set to undergo another procedure.

• Greta also insisted that their relationship is, "Okay, thank God!" The actress made herself scarce after her smooching snapshot with John Estrada found its way to the World Wide Web. Incidentally, that paved the way to Greta's reconciliation with sisters Claudine and Marjorie, who publicly defended her. "But of course," Gretchen said, "*mga kapatid ko sila e*."

(Just hours ago, we got an unexpected tip that the infamous pic was sent out and all over by a girl—young, innocent-looking, and a minor star in a network drama series—who is very close to John. Jealousy?)

• After putting Pops Fernandez in a spot the other Sunday, saying Martin Nievera had harrassed Pops, Ruffa asked Martin last Sunday to compose a song for her on the spot, "about all the things I've been going through."

Martin instantly whipped up a two-liner: "I want to move on but I can't, I wanna be happy but I won't." Talk about getting even.

• On the rival talk show "Show Biz Central," only minutes later, Martin denied rumors that he was set to marry long-time girlfriend Katrina Ojeda, mother of his youngest son, Santino. "Katrina and I talk about it all the time," he said. "We already have a baby … *'yun na lang ang kulang sa buhay namin*."

Interviewer Mo Twister: "So when can we expect [that]?"

Martin: "That I don't know. You sound like Katrina." Oops.

• Jay Manalo now knows that cracking bomb jokes could put him behind bars for five years. Jay was on his way to Puerto Princesa, Palawan when he was arrested by airport police for doing exactly that. This happened to John Estrada, too, last month, as he prepared to board a plane to General Santos. Both actors were detained for several hours. "Next time *ako sumakay ng eroplano, lalagyan ko na ng* duct tape *ang bibig ko*," said Jay.

PIOLO PASCUAL

• Richard Gutierrez announced that he recently joined Greenpeace. "[The environment] should be the major concern of this generation," he said. Now, there's a Gutierrez we'd like to hear more from.

• Cesar Montano's visit to a girly joint resulted in a lot of trouble for him. But, the actor insisted, "As long as *hindi ko nakakalimutan ang responsibilidad ko sa pamilya ko, wala pong masama doon*."

• Buboy revealed he wants a son. "*Pinipilit ko po si* Sunshine *na magka-lalaki naman kami, kahit po ayaw pa muna n'ya at ine*-enjoy *n'ya ang kanyang pagka*-sexy," he said. The Montanos have three daughters.

• Ogie Alcasid said he got this message from ex-wife Michelle van Eimeren: "'*Wag mo na lang pansinin kung sino man ang nagsasalita ng masama tungkol s'yo o sa inyong dalawa. Ang mahalaga naman ay 'yung tayo, nagkakaintindihan*. Keep your chin up."

Thing is, we don't hear any more talk about the subject than what we hear from the protagonists in this little drama.

• Jose Gabriel Bautista, grandson of Senator Bong Revilla, is one lucky baby. Just this weekend, he received a very expensive gift from his *lolo*—a white SUV. "*Gusto kasi ni* Buboy *ng kotse kulay puti*," said Grace Adriano, the boy's mom, daughter of Rosanna Roces.

And he's what, 2 years old?

• What's the real score between Erik Santos and Rufa Mae Quinto? This just in: She's now dating Mo Twister!

The scent of Piolo

Sniff this.

Piolo Pascual says he prefers his scent "clean and refreshing for daytime" and "musky" at night.

The actor recently launched a line of men's fragrance, Labworks, exclusively available at Watsons.

Stop grinning.

Dear Ate Amy

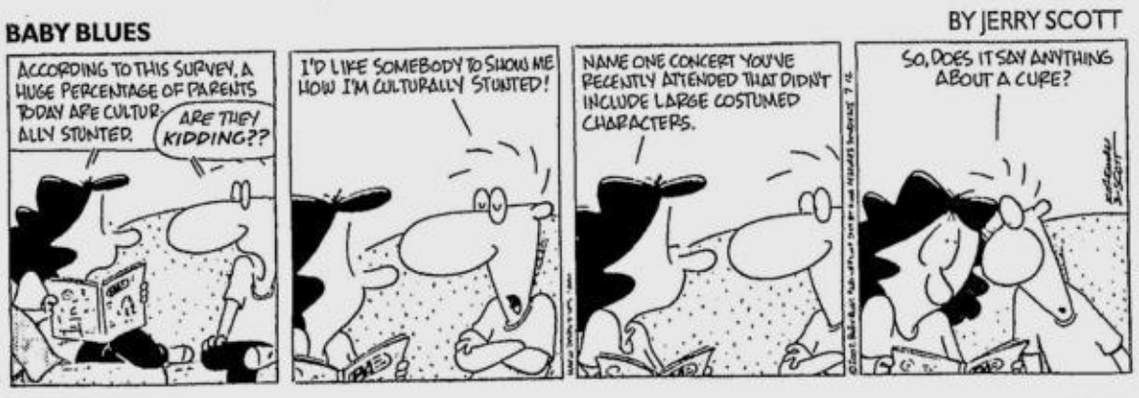
Amy Perez has a midnight radio show on dzMM, where she plays counselor and friend to listeners. That's great. The downside is, "People approach me everywhere—*kahit sa* restrooms *ng* malls—*para humingi ng payo*!"

Not everyone is a fan. "Some ask, why should I be counseling, when I'm neither a doctor nor a therapist. I just draw from my experiences. I understand my listeners *dahil na-pagdaanan ko na lahat 'yan*."

GARFIELD
BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA

BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT



PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR

MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS

HULAAN KUNG ANO ANG NANGYAYARI SA PICTURE:

A: MAY BINIBIGAY NA OFFERING ANG LALAKI

B: MAY NINANAKAW NA OFFERING ANG LALAKI

KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA

MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

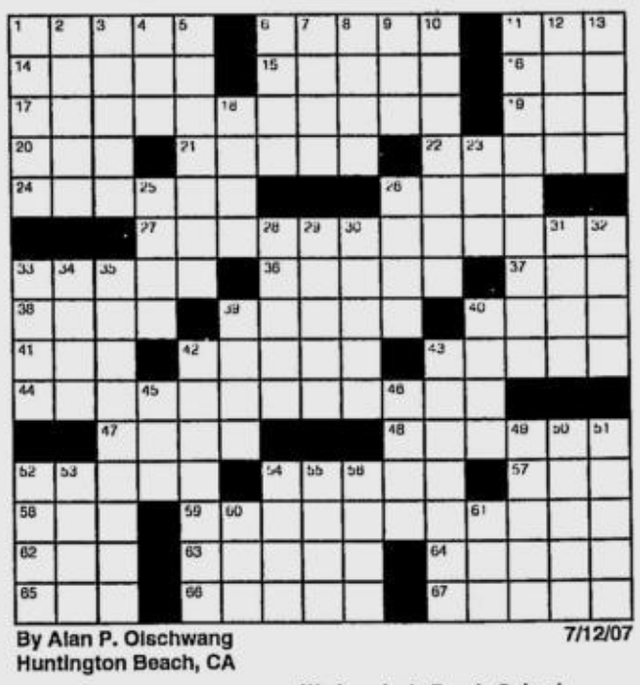
TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Fed the pot
6 Giraffe cousin
11 Flit about aimlessly
14 Brazenness
15 Scout's job, briefly
16 Had brunch
17 Start of a quip
19 Art Tatum's style
20 Tax agcy.
21 Plunders
22 Hobo
24 Canine
26 Twosome
27 Part 2 of quip
33 Costume jewelry
36 Battery terminal
37 Simpson trial judge
38 Facial feature
39 Les __-Unis
40 In a short time
41 Doe in "Bambi"
42 Delicate pancake
43 Overturn
44 Part 3 of quip
47 Afternoon affairs
48 Speculation
52 Fences the loot
54 "Lorna __"
57 Abu Dhabi, Dubai et al.
58 Always, in a poem
59 End of quip
62 "Norma __"
63 Composition for nine
64 Roast host
65 Like an extra sock
66 Try to answer
67 Engagements of honor

DOWN
1 Caper
2 Indian leader
3 Ringlet of hair
4 Tanguay of vaudeville
5 Gradual deterioration
6 Two-toned treat
7 Lane's love
8 Plays a role
9 Taro dish
10 Tuition category
11 Suit material
12 Half the alphabet?
13 Johnny of "Sleepy Hollow"
18 Buffalo Bill
23 __ de Janeiro
25 Poker winnings
26 Advanced degs.
28 "Them" author
29 Not suitable
30 Bearer
31 Egyptian god of the sun
32 Afar
33 Ancient Roman commoner
34 Indigenous people of Japan
35 Splashed and spotted
39 "__ Tu" ('74 hit)
40 Church area
42 Pursuing
43 Seated patrons
45 Vietnamese holiday
46 Sicilian volcano
49 Liquid measure
50 Honey badger
51 Affirmatives
52 Space leader?
53 Necklace unit
54 Concluded
55 Individuals
56 Makes a pick
60 Old French coin
61 Down Under bird



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA
7/12/07

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

A	L	M	S		E	M	B	E	R		T	E	S	S
E	S	A	U		L	O	I	R	E		U	C	L	A
R	A	S	P		D	I	A	N	A		T	R	I	S
	T	H	E	H	O	R	S	E	S	M	O	U	T	H
			R	A	R	A			O	A	R			
A	G	E	N	D	A		P	I	N	T		L	A	C
S	I	L	O		D	E	A	D		E	T	U	D	E
P	R	E	V	I	O	U	S	L	Y	O	W	N	E	D
E	D	N	A	S		R	H	E	A		O	G	L	E
N	S	A		S	T	O	A		M	A	S	S	E	S
			S	U	I			A	M	I	E			
P	R	E	H	E	N	S	I	L	E	T	A	I	L	
O	I	S	E		P	A	P	E	R		T	R	I	M
T	O	M	E		A	L	O	N	E		E	A	S	E
S	T	E	N		N	A	D	E	R		R	E	A	L

(C)2007 Tribune Media Services, Inc.
All rights reserved.
7/12/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a warm, fuzzy side, but you're also highly original and capable of brilliant concepts. You're also very convincing if you want to persuade others to agree with you. Others let you take charge because you're obviously capable and competent. The year ahead is full of exciting possibilities and new opportunities. Open any door!
Birthdate of: Kristi Yamaguchi, figure skater; Topher Grace, actor; Christine McVie, singer/songwriter.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): If you can avoid arguments with others today, especially about politics or religion, then you could end up having fun or even finding a new romance! Just be patient.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Don't force financial issues today (even if you think you know best). Later, something pleasant occurs with family members—perhaps entertaining at home or buying something beautiful for your home.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): It's very easy to get into disputes with partners and close friends today. Resist this temptation, because it's very brief. Later, there are smiles all around.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You might want to give someone a piece of your mind today. Just let this moment slide by and say nothing. After all, you need every piece of your mind that you've got!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You might attract someone who is too forceful today. Just sidestep this, because this energy is gone in hours. Actually, this is a fun-loving, social day.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Disputes and public arguments are likely, but not if you refuse to take part in them. You're best off running the other way, because you can enjoy moments of solitude today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): People are passionate about political, racial or religious ideas today. Therefore, don't even go there! Instead, enjoy warm, friendly discussions with others, because this, too, is possible.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Disputes about shared property or differing values are likely today. However, you can avoid this. Don't take the bait. Later, discussions with parents, bosses and authority figures are fruitful.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): The Moon is opposite your sign today, and this tends to trigger arguments. But you don't have to fall for this; plus, it's a very brief window. Instead, try to do something different.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Don't get caught up in who is right and who is wrong at work today. Just let this slide. Afterward, someone might help you or let you use what he or she owns.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Parents must be patient with children today. If you can manage to do this, later in the day, everything is just fine. Social occasions can be fun!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You might want to make repairs at home today, but avoid arguments with others. Later, home entertaining or decorating will appeal.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

	6	7		4				
								1
		9	1	2		8		3
				1		3		
9		6				2		7
		2		6				
5		4		8	9	7		
8								
				7		4	5	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/12

©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

3	7	5	2	6	8	9	1	4
6	9	2	1	4	7	8	5	3
8	4	1	9	5	3	6	7	2
5	1	9	7	8	4	3	2	6
4	6	7	3	2	5	1	9	8
2	8	3	6	1	9	7	4	5
1	2	8	5	9	6	4	3	7
7	5	6	4	3	1	2	8	9
9	3	4	8	7	2	5	6	1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/11

Fantasy action film is loads of fun

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Its human dimension keeps 'Transformers' from becoming a bore

IT ISN'T SUPER-HIGH TECH ROCKET SCIence, but we had a fun time watching "Transformers."

Michael Bay's film hangs from a very slim and improbable plot premise, but the filmmaker loads his movie with so many visual treats that its story line's thinness ceases to be that big a deal.

"Transformers" is about a race of robots in outer space whose advanced civilization is destroyed by a big war instigated by the avaricious Megatron. He and his Decepticons scour the universe for other planets to pillage—and set their sights on Earth. Lucky for us Earthlings, a teenage boy (played by **Shia Lebeouf**) teams up with his car-turned AutoBot and other good-guy transformers to beat Megatron at his own deadly game.

This story merely serves as the take-off point for the movie's many visual delights. The battle scenes are also excitingly staged, but they tend to feel repetitive after a while.

Another major element that keeps the series of robotic transformations from becoming a bore is the movie's human dimension, engagingly provided by Shia and **Megan Fox**, the dynamic and empathetic young leads.

Their bright and breezy scenes provide just the right counterpoint to the heavy mechanical quotient. They engage in implausible heroics, but that's OK—their other scenes are cheerfully real and "ordinary."

Also welcome is the satirical way in which the story's government and military leaders are portrayed. Finally, the bond between Shia and his car-robot adds to the movie's personal quotient. That's good.

On the other hand, the film's fantasy element reaches such improbable heights that its "scary" scenes soon cease to involve and terrify viewers, who are lulled into a passive mood, because they realize that there's little here that should be taken seriously. Even as all-powerful worlds collide, the fear and trembling produced is picayune.

This being the case, the viewer is left with little to do other than admiring the amazing digital transformations that take place throughout the movie. That's fine, but with a little more tweaking of its believability factor, the film could have become more of a treat on different levels.

Daniel Radcliffe

Young star **Daniel Radcliffe**'s latest Harry Potter film, "The Order of the Phoenix," is opening this week. In addition, he's starring in "December Boys," a coming-of-age tale. In "Phoenix," Harry returns for his fifth year at Hogwarts, only to discover that many people there now doubt his integrity—which he must reclaim.

'Bossa Sessions'

Pavi de Mayo and her Tropicalia band have come up with a new album, "Bossa Sessions," with 16 bossa versions of love songs from the '30s to current times. Bonus tracks include an instrumental version of "The Shadow of Your Smile."

'Moonlane Gardens'

Orange & Lemons has released its "Moonlane Gardens" album, with "Ang Katulad Mong Walang Katulad" as carrier single.

'License to Wed'

Robin Williams has a zany new comedy film in store for his fans. In "License to Wed" he is a crazy preacher who puts couples about to get married through a harrowing series of tests.

The film's main engaged couple is played by **Mandy Moore** and **John Krasinski**.

'Land of Women'

In **Jonathan Kasdan**'s directorial debut, "In the Land of Women," writer Carter Webb (**Adam Brody**) has been dumped by his true love. He goes to Michigan to care for his grandmother. He meets Sarah (**Meg Ryan**) and discovers that what felt like a door firmly closing was really the beginning of something new, healing and wonderful.

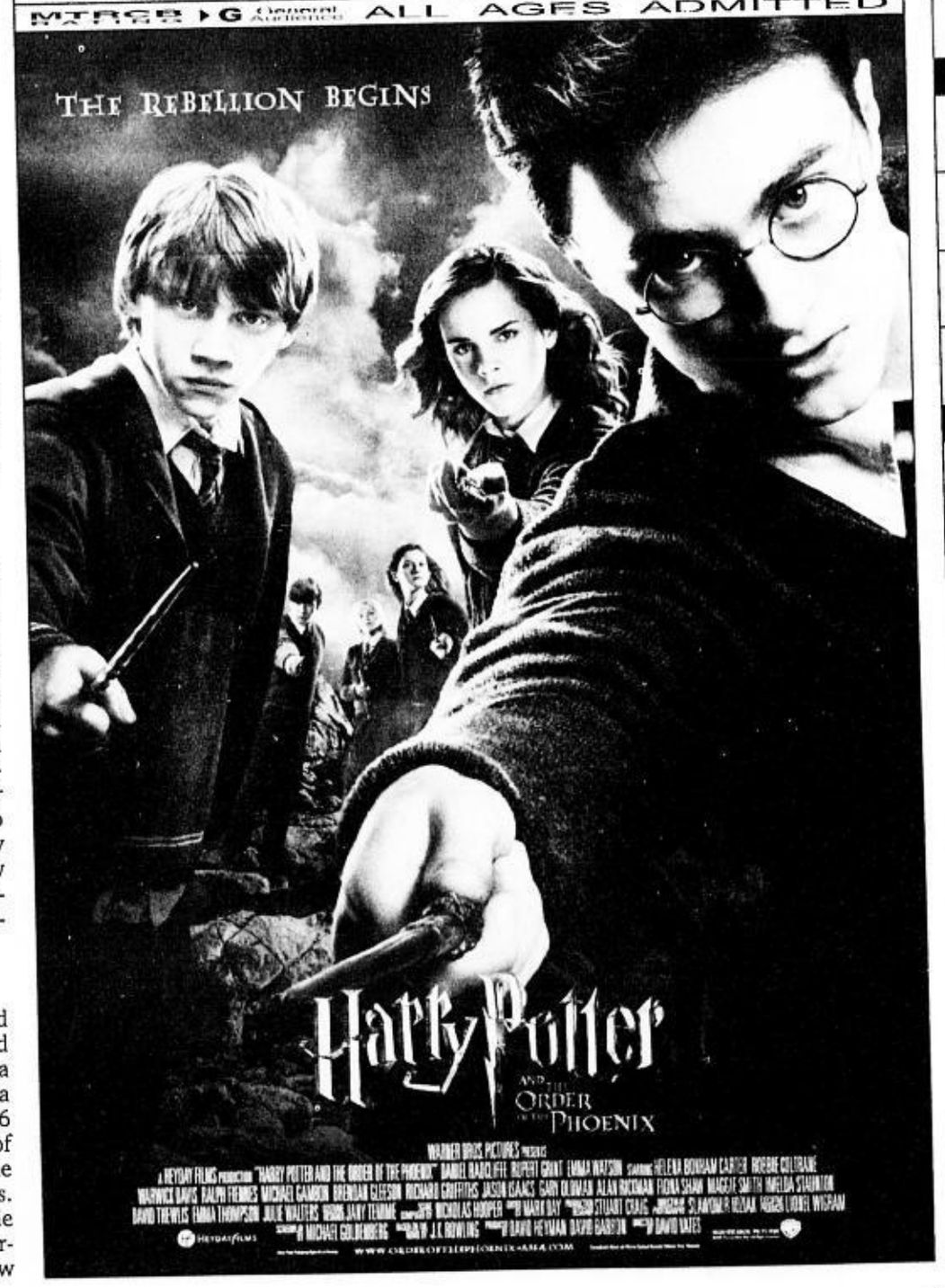
TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE!!! for

HARRY POTTER
AND THE ORDER of the PHOENIX

at
Robinsons Movieworld
GALLERIA • ERMITA
METRO EAST and
PIONEER

OPENS JULY 11 AT

NOW SHOWING!
MTRCB PG ALL AGES ADMITTED



ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA Ticket Price THX. P160 130 632-9116

1 HARRY POTTER 5 • THX
11:30MF 2:10 4:50 7:30BS 10:10LMF

2 HARRY POTTER 5
1:00MF 3:40 6:20 9:00LMF

3 HARRY POTTER 5
10:35MF 1:15 3:55 6:35BS 9:15LMF

4 HARRY POTTER 5
12:45MF 3:25 6:05 8:45LMF

5 HARRY POTTER 5
10:50MF 1:30 4:10 6:50 9:30LMF

6 HARRY POTTER 5
11:30MF 2:10 4:50 7:30BS 10:10LMF

7 TIYANAKS
1:00MF 3:10 5:20LMF

8 indieSine: TULI
12:00MF 2:25 4:50 7:15 9:40LMF

9 TRANSFORMERS
11:00MF 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00LMF

10 DIE HARD 4
11:20MF 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00LMF

Tickets for Galleria's Reserved Seats Cinemas 1, 3 & 4 are already available and may be purchased in advance.

SHOWING NOW!!!! !

Auraeus Solito's
T U L I

THIS BANNED FILM WILL FINALLY BE SHOWN IN PUBLIC THEATERS!

Starring:
DESIREE DEL VALLE & CARLO AQUINO!

A brutal and satirical rite of passage film that will challenge your sensibilities!

indieSine

ONLY AT INDIESINE, Robinsons Galleria!

ERMITA Ticket Price: P110 / P120

1 HARRY POTTER 5
10:20MF 1:10 4:00 6:50 9:40LMF

2 TIYANAKS

3 HARRY POTTER 5
11:40MF 2:30 5:20 8:10BS

4 DIE HARD 4

5 HARRY POTTER 5
12:20MF 3:10 6:00 8:50LMF

6 TRANSFORMERS

7 HARRY POTTER 5
11:00MF 1:50 4:40 7:30BS

METRO EAST Ticket Price: P100 / P110 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 TRANSFORMERS
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 HARRY POTTER 5
5 DIE HARD 4
6 HARRY POTTER 5
7 HARRY POTTER 5
8 TIYANAKS

NOVALICHES Ticket Price: P90 / P100 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4
5 HARRY POTTER 5
6 TIYANAKS
7 HARRY POTTER 5
8 HARRY POTTER 5

PIONEER Ticket Price: P100 / P110 687-5378

1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 DIE HARD
4 TRANSFORMERS

STA. ROSA Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (049) 837-0907

1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 DIE HARD 4
4 TIYANAKS
5 TRANSFORMERS

LIPA Ticket Price: (043) 757-3664 P 90 (043) 312-5870

1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 DIE HARD 4
4 TIYANAKS
5 TRANSFORMERS

DASMARIÑAS Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (046) 416-4332

1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 TIYANAKS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4
5 HARRY POTTER 5

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4
5 HARRY POTTER 5
6 TIYANAKS

ANGELES Ticket Price: P 90 / P95 (045) 892-2348

1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 HARRY POTTER 5

TARLAC

1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 DIE HARD 4
TRANSFORMERS

STARMILLS Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (045) 875-1927

1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 DIE HARD 4
3 TIYANAKS
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 HARRY POTTER 5
6 HARRY POTTER 5

BACOLOD Ticket Price: P70 (034) 441-0459

1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 RESERVE
5 DIE HARD 4
6 TRANSFORMERS

ILOILO Ticket Price: P70.50 / P80.50 (033) 336-8070

1 TRANSFORMERS
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 DIE HARD 4
5 HARRY POTTER 5
6 TIYANAKS

Get a
HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX folder for every (2) two regular movie tickets purchased.

A customer may get a maximum of (2) folders for ticket purchases of more than two (2+).

*Offer also valid for advance ticket sales.

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 HARRY POTTER 5 11:35, 2:25, 5:15 8:05, 10:50 GP
CINEMA 2 HARRY POTTER 5 12:15, 3:05, 5:55 8:45 GP
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a divertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 DIE HARD 4.0 11:05, 1:55, 4:45 7:35, 10:25 PG-13
CINEMA 4 HARRY POTTER 5 10:20, 1:05, 3:55 6:45, 9:35 GP
CINEMA 5 HARRY POTTER 5 10:45, 1:40, 4:30 7:20, 10:10 GP
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

August 03 & 04, 2007	Joey Albert	8:30 PM
August 24 & 25, 2007	Ogie Alcasid & Regine Velasquez	8:00 PM
July 13, 20, 27, 2007	Drag - Ons	10:00 PM
August 8-9, 15-16, 22-23, 29-30	Cerrudo Classico Classic	8:00 PM

TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS
FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 722-4532 LOC 116

Araneta Center
aranetacenter.net
Gateway MALL FarmersPlaza
gatewaymall.com.ph
Gateway CINEPLEX*10
ONLY CINEPLEX IN THE COUNTRY
EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE
HARRY POTTER 5
11:30 / 12:30 / 1:10 / 1:30 / 2:00
2:20 / 3:20 / 4:00 / 4:20 / 4:50
5:10 / 6:10 / 6:50 / 7:10 / 7:40
8:00 / 9:00 / 9:40 / 10:00
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX
DIE HARD 4 2:00 / 4:40 / 7:20 / 10:00
TRANSFORMERS 1:00 / 4:00 / 7:00 / 10:00
HARRY POTTER 5 12:30 / 3:20 / 6:10 / 9:00
MALL 5
1 HARRY POTTER 5 12:00 / 2:40 / 5:20 / 8:00
2 DIE HARD 4 12:30 / 3:10 / 5:50 / 8:30
3 HARRY POTTER 5 1:00 / 3:40 / 6:20 / 9:00
4 TIYANAKS 12:00 / 2:00 / 4:00 / 6:00 / 8:00
5 TRANSFORMERS 12:30 / 3:10 / 5:50 / 8:30
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS
For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph
ARANETA COLISEUM
www.aranetacoliseum.com
ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK
LIVE! AUGUST 19 SUN / 7PM RAIN OR SHINE

'Oh My Ghost'

ON JULY 14, "Kapuso Sine Specials" presents the horror-comedy "Oh My Ghost," starring Rufa Mae Quinto and Marvin Agustin.

Rufa Mae plays Trixie, a beautiful and sexy ad agency executive, who focuses on her career rather than her love life.

Even her best friend and agency partner Alvin (Agustin) tries to woo her but fails.

Meanwhile, three young guys—Dennis (Paolo Contis), Jeff (Carlos Agassi) and Buboy (Uma Khouny)—meet Trixie in the gym and fall madly in love with her. Because of their arrogance, Trixie turns each one down.

To get even, they attempt to rape her, and it leads to a fatal accident. Trixie's ghost decides to take revenge.

A series of comic situations follows, as she tries to haunt all three and bring them to justice.

The movie airs after "Wish Ko Lang!" on GMA 7.

CLICK!

Eastwood City proudly presents
The Members
Journey back in time as we take you on a musical ride, from the 60's all the way to the 80's
Watch 'The Members' pay tribute to these rock icons & more:
Jimi Hendrix Led Zeppelin The Cure The Doors
The Rolling Stones The Smiths The Shadows The Ventures
Every Thursday, 8:00 PM
Eastwood Fuente Circle
Eastwood City
TEL 687-6770 to 74 • 0917-8-EWCITY

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
To receive Eastwood City Events, Promos and Cinema schedule, just text eastwood and send to 2948 for Globe, Smart & Sun Cellular subscribers
For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 HARRY POTTER 9:00, 12:35, 3:30, 6:25, 9:20 G
2 HARRY POTTER 8:00, 11:25, 2:10, 5:05, 8:00, 10:55 G
3 HARRY POTTER 1:20, 4:15, 7:10, 10:05 G
4 DIE HARD 4.0 11:30, 2:20, 5:20 PG-13 | HARRY POTTER 8:30, 11:25 G

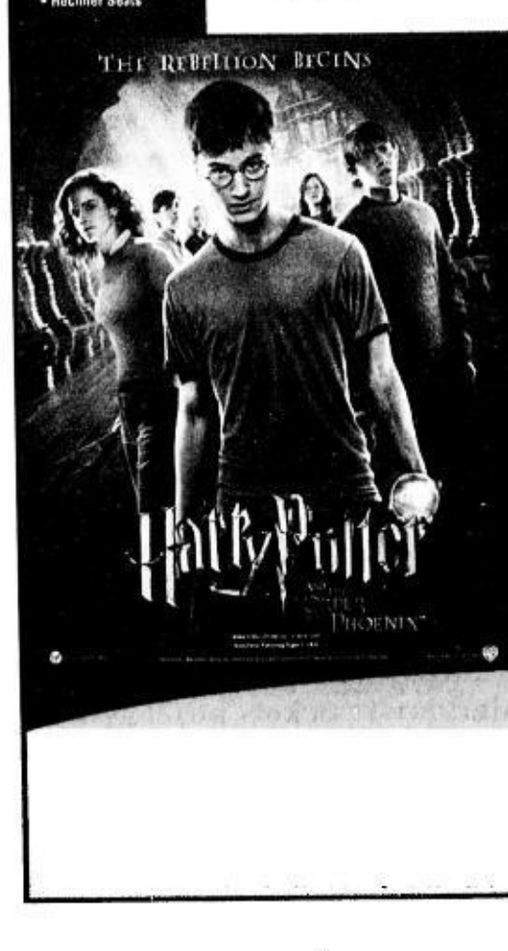
INSPIRED BY A TRUE STORY
OUIJA
WE DARE YOU NOT TO SCREAM
Directed by: TOPEL LEE
VIVA
OPENS IN THEATERS JULY 25

AT THE CINEMAS
Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729-7777

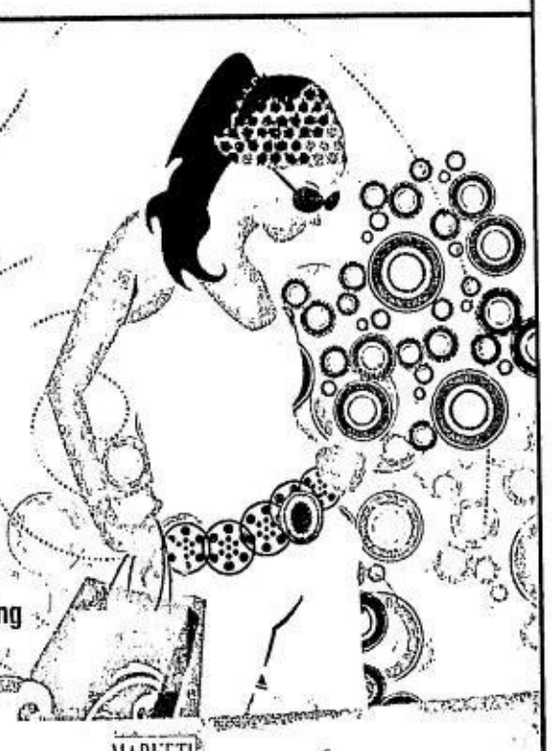
GLORIETTA 1	1 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	2 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	3 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	4 DIE HARD 4.0
GLORIETTA 4	1 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	2 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	3 THX HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX GUARANTEED SEAT	
	4 DIE HARD 4.0	5 TRANSFORMERS	6 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	7 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX
GREENBELT 1	1 DIE HARD 4.0	2 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX		
GREENBELT 3	1 THX HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 DIE HARD 4.0 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX GUARANTEED SEATS	5 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX GUARANTEED SEATS	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	2 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX		
	3 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	4 DIE HARD 4.0	5 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	2 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	3 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	4 DIE HARD 4.0
MARKET! MARKET!	1 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	2 DIE HARD 4.0		
	3 TRANSFORMERS	4 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	5 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	
TRINOMA • THX Certified • All-Digital Sound • All-Stadium Seating • Computerized Ticketing System • Recliner Seats	1 DIE HARD 4.0	2 TRANSFORMERS	3 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX GUARANTEED SEATS	4 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX GUARANTEED SEATS
	5 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	6 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	7 THX HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX GUARANTEED SEATS	

AT THE MALLS
CONCIERGE HOTLINE NUMBERS:
Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000
Ayala

glorietta	City Finds at the Park July 13 & 14, 2007 at Glorietta 3 Park
GREENBELT	The Fashion Sale (Up to 70% discount from participating Greenbelt 3 & 4 stores) July 1 to 15, 2007
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Electroworld Exhibit July 13 to 22, 2007
AYALA CENTER CEBU	AV Surfer Exhibit July 1 to 15, 2007
MARKET! MARKET!	BPI Appliance Madness July 6 to 22, 2007
Greenbelt Onstage	ONSTAGE - The perfect spot for concerts, stage plays & coporate events is now accepting bookings for May to July 2007 For bookings, pls. call 752-7862 or 757-3861
Ayala MUSEUM	Damian Domingo: The First Great Filipino Painter Exhibit - June 19 to Jan. 6, 2008 Pioneers of Philippine Art - June 15 to January 6, 2008 For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma	BARBIE BIRTHDAY BASH July 1 (2PM & 4PM) at the Activity Center HUMAN'S RICO BLANCO EXHIBIT July 2 to 15 (Mall Hours) at the 1st Level Exhibit Area



Experience the magic!
Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix
at THX CERTIFIED CINEMAS
Glorietta 4 • Greenbelt 3
Alabang Town Center • Trinoma
where every seat is the best in the house
NOW SHOWING AT AYALA MALLS CINEMAS
For screening schedule, pls. call 729-77777
MTRCB Rating: General Audience

CITY Finds AT THE PARK
July 13 &14; 4PM to 10PM
at the Glorietta 3 Park
Best buys and must haves from selected Glorietta stores.
Relax and Unwind as we mix outdoor shopping with chill music till sundown at G3 park.

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma

METRO / A23

Billiards champ Alcano charged with sexual abuse of 14-year-old daughter

ACROSS / A17

20-year Valera rule in Abra ends

ACROSS / A18

Roro ship sinks off Quezon; at least 13 dead, dozens missing

NEWS / A11

Jalosjos rape victim writes GMA: Extend compassion not to political ally, don't condone this crime

Imam killing may have triggered beheadings

By Julie S. Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao

ALBARKA, BASILAN—THE GRUESOME KILLING of an imam (religious leader) in the village of Ginanta here might have prompted members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) to attack a Marine contingent, according to the town mayor.

Ustadz Matarul Hakim Alkanul, who was par-

IMAM/ A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, July 13, 2007 ★★ 11 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 215 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Mortars were duds, warnings ignored

Trillanes wants deeper probe of Marine debacle

THE HARD PART BEGINS: A Marine keeps vigil over his slain comrades during their wake in a Catholic chapel in a Zamboanga City naval base on Thursday. Fourteen Marines were killed, 10 of them beheaded, and nine others were wounded when they were ambushed on Tuesday, according to the military, by at least 300 al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf bandits and "lawless" elements of the MILF. AP

By Christine O. Avendaño and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., and Arlyn dela Cruz, *Contributor*

ASSAULTED BY SUPERIor firepower from the enemy, Marines caught in an ambush in Tipo-Tipo, Basilan, on Tuesday responded with mortar fire—but did not do much damage.

This was apparent in the video footage taken by the GMA 7 network of the fire fight that occurred after forces of the Abu Sayyaf and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front attacked a convoy of soldiers belonging to the Basilan-based First Marine Brigade.

GMA 7 reporter Jun Veneracion—who along with two crew mates was caught in the middle of the fire fight—said the Marines had one mortar launcher with 81 mm ammunition.

Veneracion said that while the Marines were able to return mortar

MORTARS / A20

MASTER'S STROKE: Marawi-born, Rome-based Filipino artist Tomas Concepcion returns home with a portrait he did of Father Bossi with the hope that it would serve as a rallying point for all those engaged in the search for the kidnapped Italian priest. The artist will conduct an interfaith signature campaign for Bossi's release. JESS YUSON

Rome-based artist returns for Bossi's sake

By Tarra Quismundo

THROUGH HIS MASTERFUL STROKES ON canvas, this Rome-based Filipino artist hopes to cross the boundaries of religion for a unique cause.

Tomas Concepcion, 74, wheelchair-bound because of a hip operation four years ago, returned to his motherland bearing a portrait of abducted Italian priest Giancarlo Bossi. He said it was meant to bring together Muslims and Christians in a signature campaign for Bossi's release.

"I don't know if I can accomplish much, but I think every little effort should help," the Marawi-born painter and sculptor told the INQUIRER on his arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport yesterday afternoon.

ROME-BASED/ A6

GMA orders AFP: Get the savages

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Christine O. Avendaño

SAYING THERE WAS NO EXCUSE FOR savagery, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered the Armed Forces to go after those who killed 14 Marines and beheaded 10 of them in an encounter with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and possibly, the Abu Sayyaf Group, in Basilan on Tuesday.

"The Armed Forces of the Philippines is duty-bound to hunt down and arrest those who treacherously killed and beheaded the soldiers," Ms Arroyo said in a statement two days after the attack on elements of the 1st Marine Brigade who were returning to base after a fruitless search for Italian priest Giancarlo Bossi.

Bossi was kidnapped in Payao, Zamboanga Sibugay, after celebrating Sunday Mass on June 10. The government had earlier said his kidnappers could either be Abu Sayyaf bandits or renegade members of the MILF. The MILF has denied any involvement and initially helped in the hunt for his captors.

The military believed the priest was brought to Basilan, where the secessionist MILF and the Abu Sayyaf Group are active.

The lopsided nine-hour battle on Tuesday dealt the military its biggest number of fatalities in a single day.

Footage of the ambush, taken by a GMA television news crew, showed one of the Marine trucks stuck in the mud as it headed back to barracks.

GMA ORDERS/ A20

Car linked to Jonas kidnap traced to Army chief's office

ONE OF THE BACKUP VEHICLES SUPposedly used in the abduction of activist Jonas Burgos was the staff car assigned to the Army chief, Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino.

Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Ernesto Torres made the admission to reporters yesterday, but he was quick to deny that the car was used in Burgos' abduction on April 28. He said Tolentino was surprised to learn that the maroon Toyota Altis with Plate No. XBC 881 was identified as one of two vehicles used as backup.

Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco had said an informer had made the claim.

Velasco disclosed the detail in a news conference on Tuesday, and said it was on the basis of that information that he had ordered the National Bureau of Investigation to look into the supposed involvement of six military personnel in Burgos' disappearance.

Velasco has since been relieved from the inquiry into the Burgos case. Justice

CAR LINKED/ A6

Filipinos most stressed-out in Asia—survey

By Kate Pedroso
Inquirer Research

CONTRARY TO THE POPULAR BElief that Filipinos are the most laid-back in Asia, a survey across seven countries showed that they are in fact the most stressed-out people in the region.

The first Asia Health Survey conducted by Reader's Digest and Nielsen Media Research found that more than two out of five Filipinos (43 percent) said they were affect-

FILIPINOS/ A21

Roxas urges disclosure of ZTE contract's details

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Norman Bordadora

SEN. MAR ROXAS II YESTERDAY urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to disclose the details of the $329-million broadband contract awarded to a Chinese telecommunications supplier to give the public the real score on the controversial deal.

While Roxas called for transparency, Cebu Rep. Pablo Garcia yesterday asked members of civil society to look into the possible liability of Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr.'s son whose company was trying to win the contract for the national broadband network (NBN).

Garcia said it would be up to civil society to file charges against Jose de Venecia III, cofounder of Amsterdam Holdings Inc. (AHI), because any legal action from his camp may be construed as being politically motivated.

Garcia is seeking to wrest the speakership from the businessman's father.

ROXAS URGES/ A21

PUNO, CENTER OF GRAVITY: Party-list Representatives Liza Maza, Satur Ocampo and Crispin Beltran take their oath of office on Thursday before Chief Justice Reynato Puno.

Doubts on $329-M broadband deal swept under rug

By Tony S. Bergonia

(First of two parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

WHEN PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo said at the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) in China on April 21 that her administration was "investing aggressively in the IT backbone," she and her transportation secretary matched her words with quick action.

Shortly after she mentioned IT investment in her speech, she met with Hou Weighui, chair of ZTE Corp., China's second biggest IT firm, at the Haikou Meilan International Airport on her way back to Manila.

At the same meeting, a $329-million contract to build the Philippines' national broadband network (NBN) was signed by Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza and ZTE's vice president, Yu Yong. *(See ZTE ad on Page A8.)*

It was a project that generated so much interest that on April 20, Kristie Kenney, US ambassador to the Philippines, wrote to Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri to express US government interest and ask for transparency in the deal.

That letter came a few hours before Ms Arroyo, at midnight of April 20, boarded the plane to attend the BFA and, according to the Department of Transportation and Communications, witness the signing of the $329-million deal.

It would have been a routine trip for Ms Arroyo, one that her official publicists said she took to honor commitments even if she had to arrive in Hainan, a province of China where the BFA was be-

DOUBTS/ A10

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

FRIDAY, JULY 13, 2007

EZ2 SIX DIGIT

23 8 | 3 1 4 8 6 8

Mid-Day SUERTRES Evening

9 7 9 | 8 1 1

(All in exact order)

SUPERLOTTO 6/49

18 21 22 24 30 45

P76,719,828.60

Second FrontPage

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph Website: www.inquirer.net/nation

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Southern Luzon and Western Visayas which may trigger flashfloods and landslides. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/07/12/07 SOURCE PAGASA

Debate on antiterror law rages

Author says a law is a law; no need for implementing rules

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Christian V. Esguerra

THE ANTITERROR LAW OR Human Security Act of 2007 continues to be the subject of intense debate way before the first terrorist could be arrested or the first phone bugged.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, principal author of the law also known as Republic Act No. 9372, said it would take effect on July 15 even without implementing rules and regulations (IRR).

"A law is a law. It's complete when it's finished. It does not need an IRR, especially since it is a criminal law. Does the Revised Penal Code have an IRR?" Enrile said yesterday.

He said two avenues were open to critics of the law.

"If there are people who think they know better, they can do one of two things, or both. They can file a bill to amend it or they can question it in the Supreme Court so we can get an interpretation of the law. *Tama na yung daldal* (Let's stop the yakking)," Enrile, defense minister during the martial law regime of Ferdinand Marcos, said.

Surprisingly, opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., one of chief critics of the law, agreed with Enrile that the HSA did not need IRRs.

Pimentel pointed out, however, that the law could not be enforced on July 15 because several of its provisions had not been met.

"I think it is folly on the part of the government to insist on implementing the antiterror bill two months after the last elections. (That) is conditioned on many things," he said.

He cited three of the conditions: The law must be published not only in three major national newspapers but in regional papers as well; its main points must be broadcast over national and regional television and radio stations, and the Supreme Court has to designate a Court of Appeals division to review the actions and policies of the Anti-Terrorism Council and law enforcement agencies that would implement the law.

For his part, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, a former Armed Forces chief of staff, had insisted that IRRs be crafted before the antiterror law went into effect.

Biazon also wanted the IRR to pass legislative scrutiny.

A key supporter of President Macapagal-Arroyo from the Muslim community yesterday urged the government to defer enforcement of the HSA until IRRs had been written into it.

Taha Basman, president of the 500,000-strong Center for Moderate Muslims, said as it is the HSA could be open to abuse.

"If the law is implemented without IRRs," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview, "it might be abused, not necessarily by the law enforcement hierarchy, but by the rank and file." *With a report from Jhunnex Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas*

We're victims – Claudine

ACTRESS CLAUDINE BARRETTO AND HUSband Raymart Santiago yesterday admitted to the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) that they were among the "investors" in Francswiss, one of the pyramiding scams spread through the Internet.

Lawyer Ruel Lasala, chief of the bureau's National Capital Region, said the couple's lawyer, Ellen Veza, went to the NBI yesterday morning to ask how the names of her clients had cropped up as among those involved in the scam.

"Definitely, they're victims," Lasala quoted Veza as saying.

Lasala said Veza did not disclose how much money the Santiagos had invested or if they asked colleagues in show business to put their money into the scam.

"It would appear that they were not able to recover their principal investment," the NBI official said. He added that he was able to talk over the phone with Claudine, who explained that she couldn't personally appear at the NBI because she was due to give birth anytime soon. *Tina G. Santos*

San Benissa

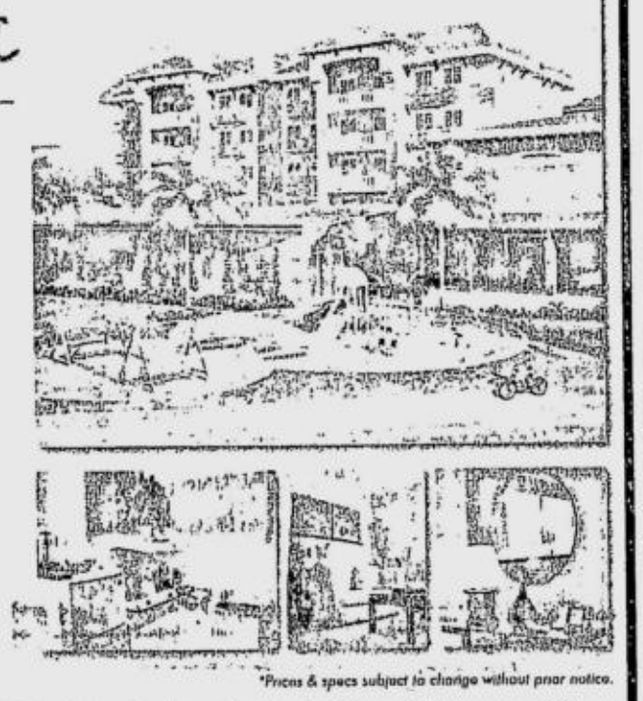
GARDEN VILLAS

Spanish-inspired Quezon City condo for as low as

P642,000* 5/F 30sqm unit

From the country's leading affordable condo developer and Best Condo Design Awardee (2007 HLURB Real Estate Development Awards)

OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY July 15



*Prices & specs subject to change without prior notice.

PHINMA PROPERTY HOLDINGS CORP.

City Living Made Easy

HOW TO GET THERE: From EDSA northbound, turn right to either East, Quezon or North Avenues, go straight until you reach the Quezon City Elliptical Circle. Turn right to Commonwealth Avenue and drive straight until you reach the unpaved portion. For commuters, take Jordan Plaines Subdivision jeepney & get off at the gate.

812-PPHC (7742) • 0917-812-PPHC (7742)

Boomland Realty: 939-7338 • 939-6113

Tax whistleblower files case himself

By Jocelyn R. Uy

TAX CREDIT SCAM WHISTLEBLOWER FELIX Chingkoe yesterday lodged a complaint of plunder against the prime suspects in the P2.5-billion tax credit certificate forgery ring as he assailed the Office of the Ombudsman for apparently sitting on four similar sets of complaints filed since 2003.

Chingkoe accused two former finance officials, 11 other employees and two retired oil company executives of conspiring with his estranged older brother Faustino and wife, Gloria, in defrauding the government of some P288 million in tax through spurious tax credit certificates (TCC) obtained by one of the 11 Chingkoe companies.

Aside from plunder, the respondents were also charged with violation of the antigraft law, estafa (fraud) through falsification of public documents and obstruction of justice.

In filing the complaint—the sixth in connection with the TCC mess but the first by a private citizen—Chingkoe said he wondered what was slowing down the antigraft body in resolving four related cases filed earlier.

He was referring to the cases lodged by Task Force 156 against Filstar Textile Industrial Inc., Allstar Spinning Inc., New Alliance Thread Co. and Express Colour Industries Inc. in 2003 and 2004.

Foot-dragging

Task Force 156 was a special presidential body created by jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada to go after tax cheats.

"The antigraft body is apparently not acting on those cases and the Department of Finance has also failed to move [after all these years]," Chingkoe told the INQUIRER after subscribing to his complaint before Assistant Ombudsman Evelyn Baliton yesterday.

He also said that the Ombudsman had not even exerted any effort in extraditing Gloria, who had stayed in Canada after charges were filed against the couple almost seven years ago.

Chingkoe alleged in his complaint that Filstar, which engaged in textile trade, was able to claim a total of P288,364,495 in tax credit from fake tax credit certificates between 1992 and 1998 after Faustino and Gloria came up with "fraudulent and fictitious" exports.

Former finance undersecretary Antonio Belicena, former finance officials Uldarico Andutan Jr. and Rowena Malonzo, ex-Shell treasury and taxation general manager Pacifico Cruz and Petron general manager Celso Legarda were among those named as respondents in the complaint.

Belicena, Andutan and the Chingkoe couple are being tried by the Sandiganbayan on 83 counts of graft charges which stemmed from a complaint the task force filed in 2001 covering Diamond Knitting Corp.

The complaint alleged that the company obtained 40 TCCs worth P131.2 million from the one-stop shop inter-agency tax credit and duty drawback center (OSS) set up under the Estrada administration.

JOIN THE PUBLIC AUCTION OF

AIM AUCTION IN MALINTA

TRUCKS • HEAVY EQUIPMENT • MISC. ITEMS

Auction Dates: July 26 - 29, 2007 STARTS AT 8:30 A.M. SHARP

Inspection Dates: July 20 - 25, 2007 STARTS AT 8:30 A.M. SHARP

For inquiries please call: (02)984-6741 • (02)984-6753 • (02)984-0215/16

Trucks & Equipment Financing available thru: ORIX METRO Leasing & Finance Corp. • Tel (02) 858-8888

Email us: info@auctioninmalinta.com • Visit our website: www.auctioninmalinta.com

Pimentel gives up on Senate top post

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

WITH TWO WEEKS TO GO BEFORE THE opening of the 14th Congress, opposition Sen. Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr. appeared resigned to being the Senate minority leader again even though the opposition won a majority of seats in the last election.

By his own reckoning, Pimentel said he had the support of seven opposition senators, four of whom were elected on May 14.

Pimentel's rival for the Senate presidency, Manuel Villar, also won a fresh six-year term as a guest candidate of the Genuine Opposition ticket.

Villar was the last Senate's president and this time he has managed to get 13 senators to his side—eight with the administration, three with the opposition and two independent.

The three opposition senators are Jinggoy Estrada and newcomers Alan Peter Cayetano and Francis Escudero.

Pimentel chided Villar for turning to the administration for help in keeping his post.

"I don't know about the Senate leadership, if they'll stick it out in the opposition. I really don't know. Changes take place from day to day in this set-up," Pimentel told reporters yesterday.

"You wake up one morning you are no longer with the opposition but with somebody else. So that depends on what Manny Villar will do, in all honesty," he said.

Jinggoy Estrada, the son of deposed President Joseph Estrada who is the acknowledged main supporter of the opposition Senate slate, is reportedly eyeing the pro tempore position, the second highest in the chamber.

Cayetano's sister, Sen. Pia Cayetano, who ran with the administration ticket in 2004, is part of the Villar bloc.

Escudero, whose candidacy was endorsed by actress Susan Roces, widow of the late 2004 opposition presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr., bolted the opposition ranks to back Villar.

PIMENTEL

"There is no change in developments. As of now, Manny Villar has apparently successfully enticed two GO senators, namely, Escudero and Alan Cayetano, to his fold. If his alliance with the administration senators holds true, then he has the majority," Pimentel said.

The rest of the opposition senators have decided to stick together in the minority.

Pimentel said they wanted him to be minority leader again. "That's what my bloc wants me to consider, to continue being the minority leader," he said.

Pimentel said that while "many things can happen" between now and July 23 when the 14th Congress opens, he has suggested that a caucus be called with the two blocs, "so that animosity and acrimonious exchanges will be avoided."

Areas most prone to floods, landslides identified

MOST OF THE PROVINCES PRONE to landslides and floods are located in the Cordilleras and Luzon, and hence, should prepare for these natural dangers now that the rainy season has set in, environment officials said yesterday.

Benguet, Mountain Province, Nueva Vizcaya, and Kalinga Apayao were the most highly-susceptible to landslides, according to the latest geo-hazard mapping of the environment department's Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB).

Also on the top 10 list were Southern Leyte, Abra, Marinduque, Cebu, Catanduanes and Ifugao.

On the other hand, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Pangasinan, Tarlac, Maguindanao, Bulacan, Metro Manila, North Cotabato, Oriental Mindoro and Ilocos Norte were the most flood-prone provinces, MGB officials said.

In view of this fresh geo-hazard mapping, Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes directed MGB officials to coordinate with the Office of Civil Defense and other agencies in identifying specific areas susceptible to hazards.

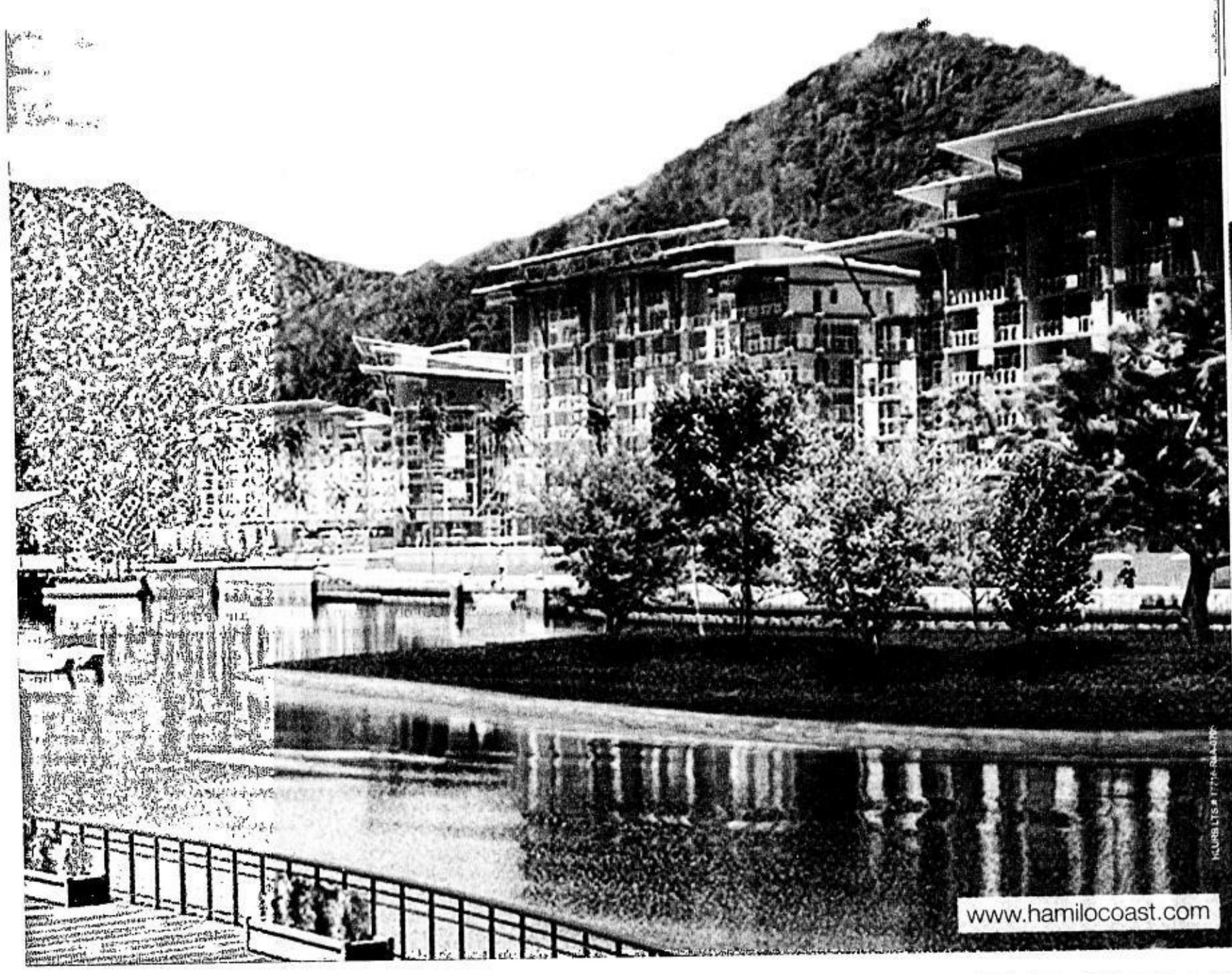
"Specifically, you are directed to conduct meetings with local government officials and brief them of the hazards in their areas of jurisdiction," Reyes said in a memorandum yesterday.

Based on the mapping, 90.2 percent of the total land area of Benguet was susceptible to landslides, followed by Mt. Province (87.1 percent); Nueva Vizcaya (86.7 percent); Southern Leyte (82.6 percent); Abra (82.1 percent); and Marinduque (78.6 percent). *TJ Burgonio*

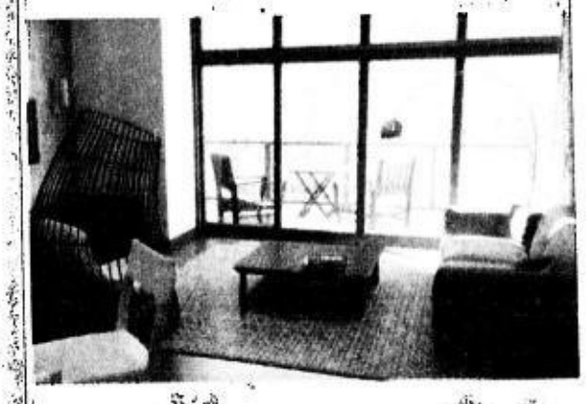
pico de loro

As beautiful as everything that surrounds it.

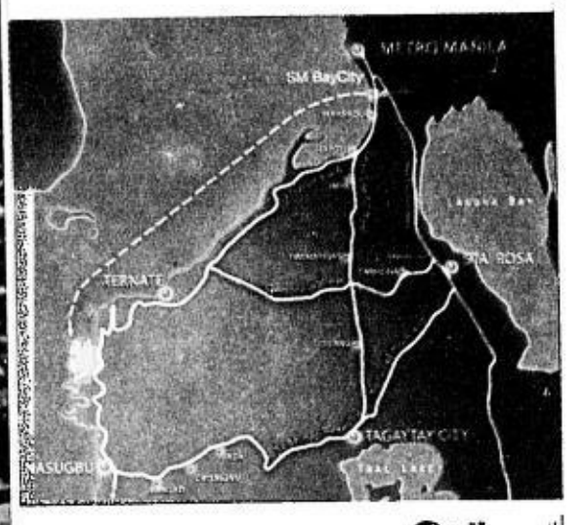
Designed to be as breathtaking as the surrounding natural beauty, each Pico de Loro Cove Condominium provides a personal escape into Paradise. Here, you and your family will surely rediscover the things that matter most.



Live. Play. The Pico Way.



Spend quality time indoors while still enjoying breathtaking views from your beautifully-designed Pico de Loro Cove Condominium. Located in Nasugbu, Batangas, Pico de Loro Cove is just a 2.5-hour drive from Metro Manila, making it the ideal weekend escape. Make this piece of Paradise yours, by owning a condominium unit or a Beach & Country Club share. At Pico de Loro Cove, Paradise is a lot closer than you think.



Hamilo

SM INVESTMENTS CORPORATION

Pico de Loro Cove
Your Piece of Paradise at Hamilo Coast

For inquiries, call:
+632 833-1907, +632 832-8837
or visit www.hamilocoast.com

The particulars, details and visuals shown herein are intended to give a general idea of the project and as such are not to be relied upon as statements of fact. While such particulars and details are based on present plans which have been prepared with utmost care and are presented in good faith, buyers are invited to verify their factual correctness and subsequent changes, if any. The contents herein are subject to change without prior notice and do not constitute part of an offer or contract.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Dare to ask. Be an Inquirer.

Lose 10 lbs. in 5 weeks!

PHYSIQUE INCH-LOSS FAT MOBILIZATION SYSTEM VARA PULSE FAT REDUCER

Losing weight has never been this easy. Like Dawn, you can lose as much as 10 lbs. in as short as 5 weeks! Try Dawn's **Weight-Loss Accelerator Program** at Marie France and lose all those unwanted pounds, inches, flabs and fats in your body. Lose weight with no exercise, no crazy diets, no pills and no surgery! As Dawn said, "Just do what I did – regular treatments at Marie France!" Soon, you'll get that slim, sexy figure you deserve – and make heads turn!

FREE Weight-Loss Starter Program
upon enrollment from July 9-14, 2007 only!
Per DTI-NCR Permit # 3056, Series of 2007

Call 894-BODY (2639)

MAKATI ORTIGAS TOMAS MORATO BINONDO ALABANG SHAW CONGRESSIONAL PAMPANGA • TEL: 961-2981 CEBU • TEL: 233-7637

marie france

Being off Europe's terror list elates Joma

By Norman Bordadora

JOSE MA. SISON, CHIEF POLITICAL CONSULTant of the National Democratic Front and founding chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines, has expressed elation over a European court decision removing him from the list of foreign terrorists on the continent.

"I am elated by the judgment of the ECFI, especially because I had not expected it to be favorable. I thank the lawyers who worked so hard and for winning a landmark decision," Sison said in a statement.

NDF chair Luis Jalandoni said the decision of the Luxembourg-based European Court of First Instance was a victory for Sison, the NDF, the Filipino people and "all the foreign friends who have supported Professor Sison in his fight against the terrorist listing."

The European Union court on Wednesday annulled the decision handed down over a year ago by the Council of the European Union tagging Sison as a foreign terrorist.

The Committee to Defend Filipino Progressives in Europe, a group devoted to looking after the legal and social welfare of Sison and other political exiles in Europe, revealed the latest development to reporters in the Philippines yesterday.

Committee-Defend said the ECFI annulled the May 29, 2006, decision of the Council of the European Union listing Sison as a terrorist.

It said the judgment also applied to the council's more recent June 28, 2007, decision listing Sison as a terrorist, "because this decision has exactly the same infirmities and is also violative of the rights of professor Sison."

The decision delisting Sison was penned by Judge J. Pirrung, president of the Second Chamber of the ECFI. The other judges were N. J. Forwood (Rapporteur) and S. Papasavvas.

"The ECFI ruled that the Council of the EU violated the rights of professor Sison to a defense, the obligation to state the reasons [for his listing] and the right to effective judicial protection," Committee-Defend said.

"There has never been a competent judicial authority that called him to a criminal investigation or any court hearing regarding any terrorist act," it added.

The group said the ECFI also ordered the EU council to pay the cost of the litigation.

Sison is the chief political consultant of the NDF, an umbrella organization for the communist movement in the Philippines.

"The ECFI judgment does not give compensation to Professor Sison for the termination of his social benefits (living allowance, health insurance, old age pension) and for moral and material damages but it paves the way for him to claim these in the Netherlands or in further litigation at the European level," Committee-Defend said.

Sison was represented by a high-powered international team of human rights lawyers headed by Jan Fermon of Belgium with Hans Schultz of Germany, Antoine Comte of France, Dundar Gurses of the Netherlands, Thomas Olsson of Sweden, Mathieu Beys of Belgium and Romeo Capulong of the Philippines as members.

"The tactic of blacklisting Professor Jose Maria Sison is calculated to pressure the NDF to capitulate in its peace negotiations with the Manila government. But it has served only to paralyze said negotiations," Committee-Defend said.

The court decision removed only Sison from the European Union's list of foreign terrorists.

The CPP and the New People's Army, being underground groups, didn't file for delisting and thus are still on the list.

Bakit magtitiis sa tulo ng bahay?

Sa Mortaseal...panalo ka!

Matibay at mura pa • Madaling gamitin

MORTASEAL

Cementitious Waterproofing Compound

Solution for leak problems!!!

Other products: Mortabond Tile Adhesive, EZbond Tile Adhesive, Rainbow Tile Grout, Dura-Plas Cement Paint Putty, Mortapaint Concrete Primer, Mortaplug Hydraulic Water Plug

Available at: Handyman Do It Best Home Center • Ace Builder's Center (SM Pampanga • SM Fairview) • Topan Mktg. Corp (Q.C. 366-3863) Marikupa Dynamics (Tel. 882-0534) • Megacom Hdwe (Q.C., 435-9174) • Globemaster Trading (416-7539) • NLK Const. Supply (Laguna 420-8275) Making Hdwe & Const. Supply (Laguna, 049-5021643) • Magasouth Hdwe & Const. Supply (Laguna, 049-5041333) Tacloban Ultra Steel Corp (053-3214923) • La Europa Ceramica Tile Center (Manila 356-9162 & Cebu (032 2333388)

For more inquiries: www.mortabond.com

Tels. 983-5918 . 983-5919 . 416-5635 . 415-0289 . 049-5457678

The GREAT PROJECTOR SALE

Panasonic

UNTIL JULY 15, 2007

EXTENDED

NOW: P36,990 Only

30% Smaller than A4 Paper

1.3 Kgs Only

PT- P1SD

4- In- 1

Digital SD Slide Projector

Built- in SD Card Reader for PC- Less Presentations

A PC- Less, Slide, Video and data projector in one small package

VGA, Video and s- video terminal for regular wired usage

SRP: 44,990

Experience The POWER of SD Card

Our Lightest, Smallest and ONLY projector with built- in SD Card Player in the market. Impressive in looks, features, size and weight. Shows will go on even without your laptops. Allows Direct Play of pictures from your digicam's SD card. This model is best to share pictures to family, friends and for presentations for your clients, of course..... IN STYLE. If you're the old fashioned type of person, then PT- P1SD is not for you.

True XGA

SRP: 65,990

NOW: P52,990

PT- LB50E

2,000 Lumens, XGA

1.8 Kg

FREE

For cash walk- in buyers

Plus:

3 meter High res. VGA Cable

All worth more than P5,000

Panasonic Cordless Phone

Wireless presenter with laser pointer

Per DTI NCR permit # 2469 Series of 2007

Approved by DTI-NCR

Additional P1,000 for provincial orders. We will ship to any airport in the Philippines

COSMOTECH Projector World

King's Court Parking Grounds, 2129 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City (Back of Makati Medical Center)

Parkings slots are available, otherwise you may park along Amorsolo St.

Tel: 759 2484 to 88, 759 5761 to 65, 759 2573, 0922-8444416

The VENUE

Provincial Venues:

DAVAO: The Projector World, 3/F Cyberzone, SM City Davao, Ecoland Davao City Tel: 082- 2978340, 2978341, 0922- 8444418

CEBU: 3/F Room 3-B MJL Bldg, A S Fortuna St, Mandaue City Tel. (032)416-6757 or 58 /09228444419/09209092694

Garcia wants secret House vote July 21

He's not that clean, JDV allies claim

By Norman Bordadora

AFTER ACCUSING SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA OF LACKING the moral ascendancy to keep the speakership, Rep. Pablo Garcia himself came under fire from the speaker's allies who claimed Garcia himself had been accused of graft.

Four senior lawmakers said Garcia, who is challenging De Venecia for the speakership, is facing graft charges before the Ombudsman and two of his children have pending graft cases as well, "totally dismantling his claim to a moral high ground in his quest for the speakership of the 14th Congress."

"Because of the graft cases, he is clearly not in the best moral position to offer himself as Speaker of the House. He should not aspire for something that his past actions disqualify him from," the four congressmen said in a joint statement.

The four—Representatives Edcel Lagman (Albay), Junie Cua (Quirino), Milagros Magsaysay (Zambales) and Mauricio Domogan (Baguio City)—said the 81-year-old Garcia cannot offer himself as the face of reforms, and must "explain to congressmen and the Filipino people why someone with pending graft cases should be allowed to seek the country's fourth most powerful position."

Garcia had asked De Venecia to withdraw from the speakership contest "for lack of moral ascendancy" in connection with the involvement of his son, Jose de Venecia III, in a failed bid to win the multimillion dollar national broadband project.

The younger De Venecia's company, Amsterdam Holdings Inc., had made a failed bid for the project. Garcia said Speaker De Venecia's withdrawal would dispel the impression that his son was using his influence to bag the broadband contract.

But the four allies of De Venecia said Garcia himself is no above suspicion. "Decency alone dictates that Garcia step aside and stop his public posturing as the paragon of moral virtue," they said.

Garcia and his son, Pablo Jr., a neophyte congressman, are in the House of Representatives; a daughter, Gwendolyn, is governor of Cebu and another son, Winston, is general manager of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

Another senior lawmaker, Parañaque Rep. Eduardo Zialcita, said the political dynasty issue against the Garcia family is something the elder Garcia cannot defend by vowing to pursue reforms in Congress.

Plunder charges were filed against the Garcias by political arch-rival John Osmeña, who accused the Garcia patriarch and his daughter of using provincial funds to ensure the latter's victory in the gubernatorial race in 2004.

Osmeña, who lost his last two bids to regain a Senate seat, had said father and daughter and four others conspired to use P1 billion to finance Gwendolyn's campaign for governor. Osmeña's son, John, had lost the gubernatorial contest to Gwendolyn.

The Garcias denied the allegations and hit back at Osmeña with a P50 million libel suit.

CEBU REP. PABLO GARCIA YESterday said that the caucus and secret vote to decide who will be next Speaker of the House should transpire two days before Congress convenes on July 23 to ensure maximum attendance.

Garcia, a challenger for the speakership, made the remarks after the Speaker Jose De Venecia was quoted as having agreed to a secret vote to decide who the next Speaker will be.

Garcia also said that the caucus and secret vote should include as well members of the opposition in the House for the results of the speakership election to supposedly reflect the true sentiment of all members, "not just of the administration congressmen."

"We are sending him the message that the ideal date for the secret balloting should be on July 21. On July 14, many of the congressmen and congresswomen would still be on vacation or would still be in their constituencies," Garcia said at the weekly Serye news forum in Quezon City.

TV interview

De Venecia had been reported as having agreed to a secret vote on Wednesday in an interview on ANC Television.

"It should be done on July 14 to allow the victor to prepare for his structure of leadership," De Venecia reportedly said.

De Venecia has yet to make clear whether or not the secret ballot will include members of the opposition in the House.

Garcia said he believes that the caucus and secret balloting should be done with members of the opposition.

"This is to reflect the sentiment of the entire House, not just that of the administration," Garcia said.

Garcia said the venue of the caucus and secret balloting should be the House premises itself.

"Not necessarily in the plenary (hall) but it should be in the House," Garcia said.

"It will still be off-Congress," he added, referring to the fact that Congress has yet to convene.

Who does he think should handle the ballots under such a scheme to decide the next Speaker?

Announcing a NEW breakthrough in VIDEOKE entertainment.

ziller REALSOUND

PORTABLE BOX VIDEOKE

Power-driven by: MP3 sound Technology

• Sing with back-up singers
• 277 built-in OPM Songs
• 1,250 built-in ENGLISH Songs
• Personalize your picture background

Get one now and experience REALSOUND!

by tj media

Made in KOREA

www.tjmedia.co.kr

Model No TKR 300

SM appliance CENTER our name is your guarantee EXCLUSIVE

FREE! Mini Cam (worth P1,000.00), T-Shirt & Hygienic Mic Cover

TKR 300 + Second Mic + Memory Pack

PACKAGE PROMO 1 for every purchase of Ziller RealSound® TKR 300 + 2nd mic + memory pack

PACKAGE PROMO 2 for every purchase of Ziller RealSound® TKR 300 + 2nd mic (Free T-Shirt & Hygienic mic cover) SAVE P 500.00

PACKAGE PROMO 3 for every purchase of Ziller RealSound® TKR 300 + memory pack (Free T-Shirt & Hygienic mic cover) SAVE P 500.00

Not valid with other product promotions. Promo period July 9 to Aug. 9, 2007 Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2615, Series of 2007

Now available at the following SM Appliance Centers:

The Block (442-0183) • SM Valenzuela (291-9973) • SM Cubao (911-1159) • SM Megamall (633-5075) • SM Makati (816-1178) • SM Fairview (417-6795) • SM Manila (523-8593) • SM Mall Of Asia (586-0409) • SM Sucat (829-7346) • SM Bicutan (777-9295) • SM Las Piñas (800-3512) • Virramall (725-1011) • SM Marilao (044) 933-2013) • SM Pampanga (045) 961-6991 • SM Batangas (886-7735) • SM Bacoor (046) 417-0258) • SM Cebu (032) 231-9132) • SM Iloilo (033) 320-6355) • SM Davao (082) 297-7064) • SM Cagayan De Oro (088) 859-2501)

Exclusively Distributed by: RealSound® Corporation

Tel. No. (632) 366-9410 • (02) 447-3114 • (632) 447-3647 • SMS: 0927-4842789

www.realsoundvideoke.com

Marginalized twice over

By Nikko Dizon

WILL THE MARGINALIZED SECTORS OF SOciety still be marginalized in the 14th Congress?

An official of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) yesterday said that there could be fewer party-list representatives in the Congress about to be convened compared to the previous ones because of the formula the poll body was bound to apply to determine the number of additional seats for each winning party-list group.

James Jimenez, Comelec spokesperson, was referring to the Veterans Federation of the Philippines (VFP) formula, also known as the "Panganiban formula" or the First Party Rule.

The name refers to the Supreme Court ruling in 2000 on the VFP case penned by then Justice Artemio Panganiban.

"The operation of the formula leads to a fewer number of party-list representatives. That's the objective result of the formula," Jimenez told reporters.

Jimenez said that only the El Shaddai-backed Buhay would get three seats in the House of Representatives.

"Buhay has garnered the most number of votes. Under the formula that we are using, they are sure to have three seats and every one else will have to be reckoned from their (Buhay) result," Jimenez said.

He added that at least three other party-list groups appeared headed to getting two seats each. He named them as Bayan Muna, Cibac, and Gabriela—the three organizations immediately trailing Buhay in the vote count.

Bayan Muna and Gabriela are protesting the Comelec's use of the First Party Rule.

In a recent letter to Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr., Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said that the First Party Rule violated the Constitution and the Party-list Law.

But Jimenez said that Comelec had defied the Supreme Court by insisting on the 2-4-6 formula, which gave more seats to party-list organizations. For this, he said, the poll body had been repeatedly and "literally scolded" by the high court.

"Unfortunately, the only one that could fix this is the SC," he said.

Vinarao confirms resignation as bureau of corrections chief

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU of Corrections yesterday confirmed his resignation from the Muntinlupa-based agency, saying he wanted to have more time for private activities such as writing books.

Vicente Vinarao said he tendered his resignation a week ago and that President Macapagal-Arroyo accepted his resignation on Friday.

"I have not been reporting for work for at least a week now. It's back to private life for me," Vinarao told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

He was replaced by retired police director Ricardo Dapat during the turnover ceremonies on Wednesday.

Vinarao said he is busy preparing a book on the country's police system, and that he would ask his wife to edit it.

"I didn't have time do that when I was in government," he added.

The former police director, however, refused to explain the personal reasons behind his resignation.

Vinarao served as BuCor chief during the Ramos administration where he also served as superintendent of the Philippine National Police Academy and presidential adviser for police affairs.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Dapat at the BuCor director's office, but was told that the new BuCor chief was out of the office.

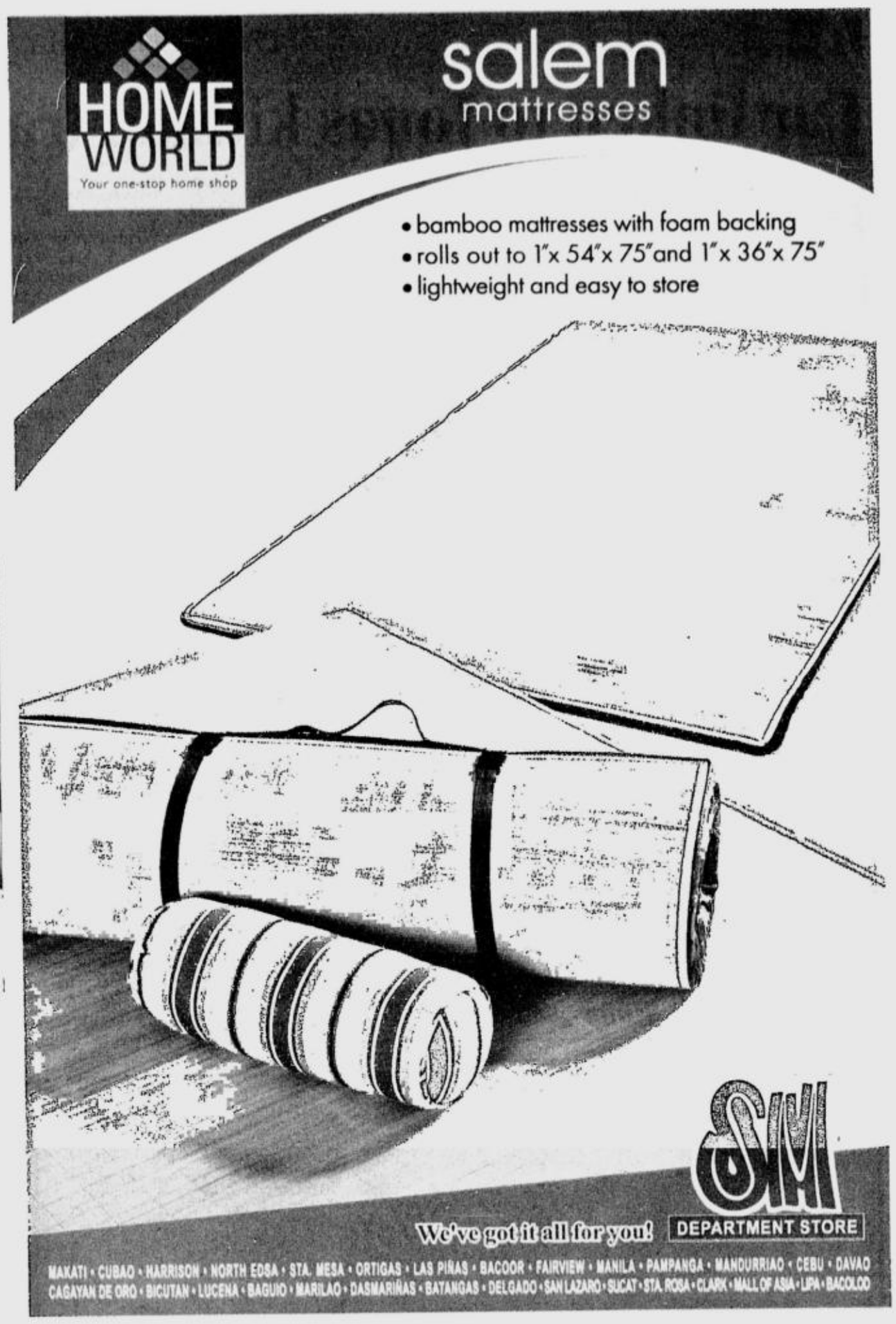
Juanita Magsaysay; 91

JUANITA MALLILLIN Magsaysay, aunt of Journal Group of Publications Editor-in-Chief Gus B. Villanueva, died yesterday morning at Cardinal Santos Medical Center after a lingering illness. She was 91.

She left behind husband Feliberto, daughter Marissa and her husband Craig Lee Johnson, son William Lewis Jr. and his wife Erlinda, brother Manoling Mallillin, sisters Marcy Andrada, Nenita Repsgard and Estrella Ferrer and grandchildren.

Her body lies at the Garden Suite, Loyola Memorial Chapels in Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 15 after Mass at 9 a.m.



Make everyday merry and rewarding; just keep using your Citibank Credit Card.

There are more appliances, toys, gadgets, personal products, spa treatments, vacation packages and other items in our new Rewards catalog. With yet another new airline partner -- Philippine Airlines. So now you can exchange your Rewards Points for Mabuhay Miles and travel the Philippines and the world. And your Rewards Points will never expire so you can keep accumulating them for bigger items. Citibank Cards. Life can be so rewarding.

For more details, call the 24-hour CitiPhone at 995 9999. Don't have a Citibank Credit Card? Call 423 3000 or visit www.citibank.com.ph.

citibank let's get it done

CITIBANK is a registered service mark of Citigroup Inc. LET'S GET IT DONE is a service mark of Citigroup Inc.

Car linked to Jonas kidnap traced to Army chief's office

From page A1

Secretary Raul Gonzalez said on Wednesday he should not have divulged the names of the military personnel without hard evidence of their involvement.

The state prosecutor had named five of the six persons who purportedly abducted Burgos from the Ever Gotesco Mall in Quezon City. He said three of the six were assigned to the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp), and the other three, to the Army.

Unthinkable

According to Torres, the claim of Velasco's informer "should be viewed with suspicion" because "it is unthinkable and illogical for the Army chief to have somebody use his car for such a purpose."

Torres said the car had been in use since the term of Dionisio Santiago as Army chief. (Santiago went on to become chief of staff of the AFP.)

"The Army chief uses the car for official functions. His family also uses the car," Torres said.

Asked if there appeared to be an attempt to implicate Tolentino in Burgos' abduction, Torres replied in the affirmative.

"If you will assess what has happened, there's reason to believe that there is somebody orchestrating these things against General Tolentino," he said.

Torres reiterated that the informer's statements were "malicious" considering that of the six military personnel linked to Burgos' abduction, the names of four did not appear in the AFP roster.

Thankful

Nevertheless, he said, the Army would continue to cooperate with the investigation being conducted.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. welcomed the relief of Velasco and continued to insist that military men were not behind Burgos' abduction.

"I have heard about [Velasco's relief]. I am thankful that such corrective steps are taken because, what happens when an unidentified informant gives out names and this is published by the investigator?" Esperon said in an ambush interview in Malacañang.

Velasco himself said he was not contesting Gonzalez's decision to take him off his assignment: "I don't question the wisdom of the secretary. Nobody is indispensable. I respect his decision and I have no recourse but to obey it."

The state prosecutor, who also heads the Presidential Task Force Against Media Harassment, said he believed that his informer would continue to "cooperate" with the NBI, and that the bureau would do a good job in investigating the six military personnel that his informer had linked to Burgos' disappearance.

'Not Isafp'

Asked about his opinion on Gonzalez's statement that his disclosure of the names was unfair, Velasco said he would rather not comment.

But Esperon insisted that "the people they have blamed for the abduction are not in the roster of the Isafp."

He said Lt. Col. Noel Clement of the Escort and Security Battalion, who once headed the 56th Infantry Battalion (IB), was "no longer assigned in the area" when Burgos was abducted.

Burgos' mother Edita had said that Clement, among other military officers, should be held liable for her son's disappearance because the plate number of the vehicle allegedly used in the abduction was traced to a vehicle in the custody of the 56th IB.

Esperon decried the fact that an anonymous informer was naming names.

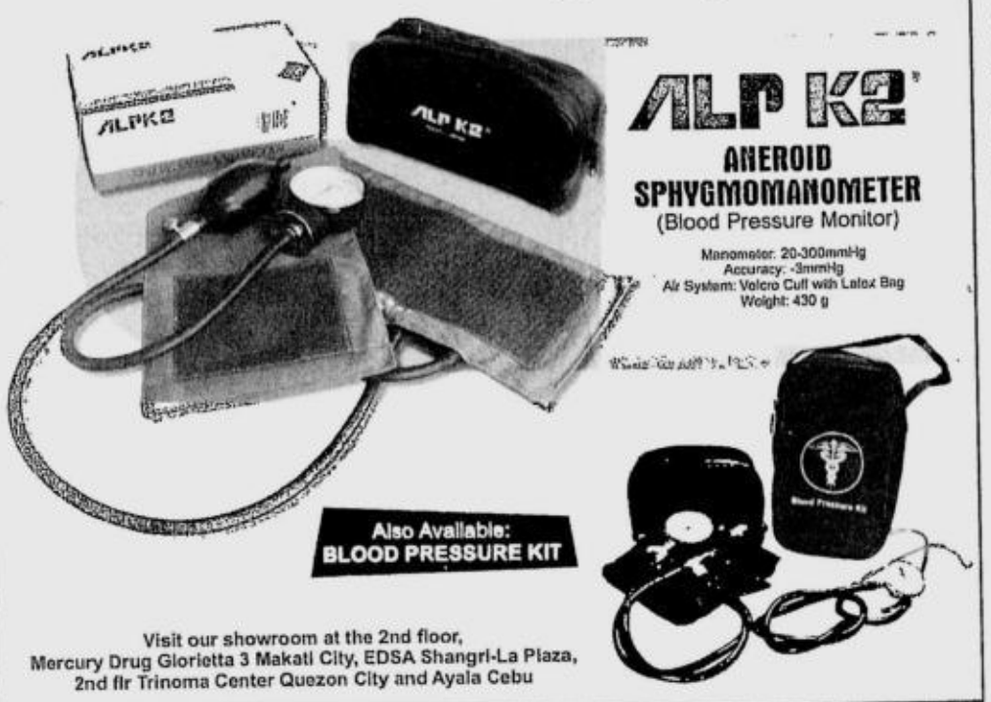
"If they have the names, and they have the informant, all they have to do is to go through the proper forum and not have this publicized while hiding behind anonymity. why don't they come out?" he said.

He pointed out that the NBI could pursue a parallel investigation.

"We have been cooperating with all agencies that are investigating the incident. We are as interested as anybody [else] in finding out what happened—and, for that matter, who the perpetrators are," he added. *Reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Michael Lim Ubac and Leila B. Salaverria*

EDITA BURGOS, mother of Jonas, seeks help from the Supreme Court to compel the military to produce her son. REM ZAMORA

Check your BLOOD PRESSURE Regularly with...

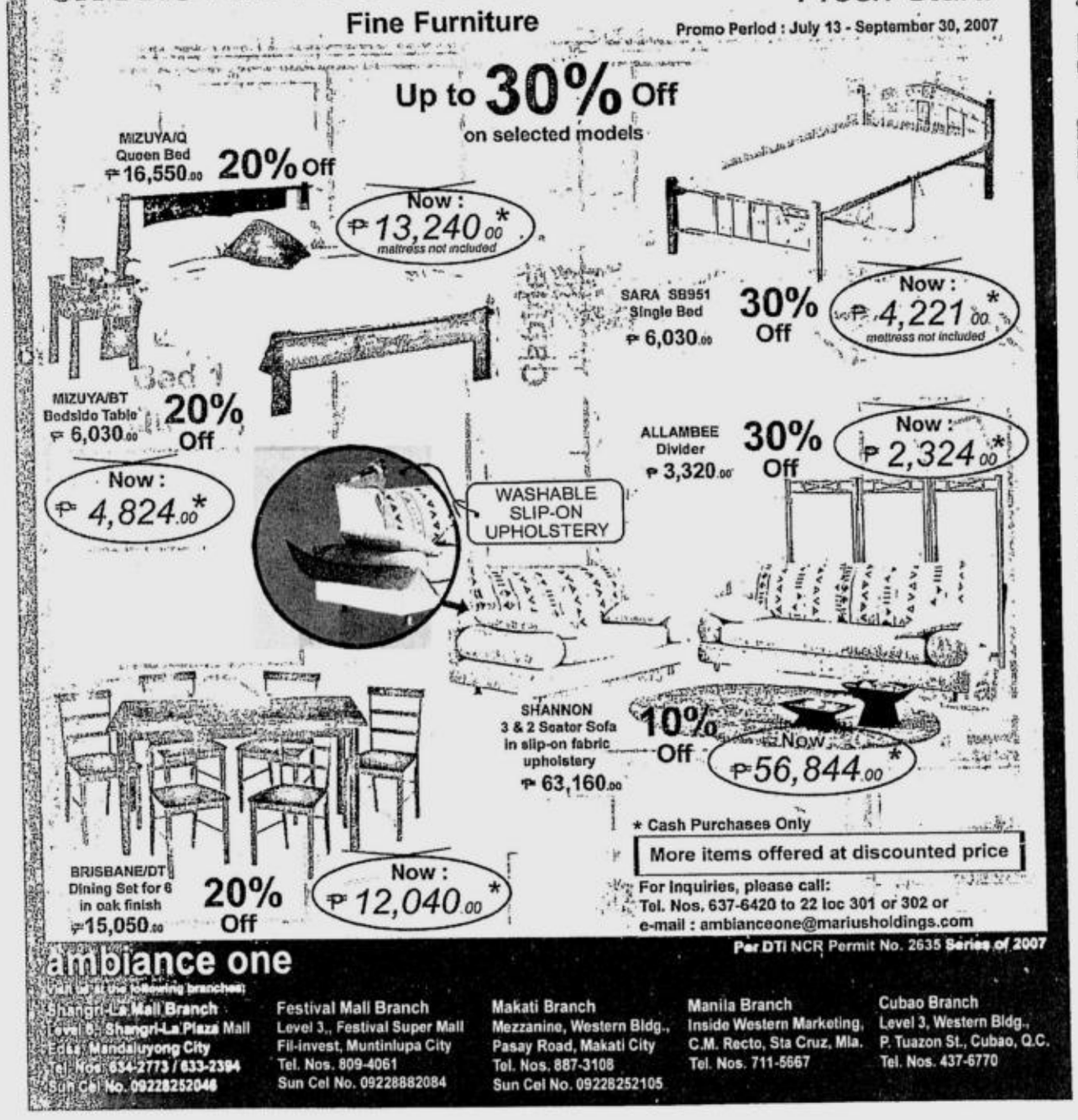


Visit our showroom at the 2nd floor, Mercury Drug Glorietta 3 Makati City, EDSA Shangri-La Plaza, 2nd flr Trinoma Center Quezon City and Ayala Cebu

Exclusively Distributed by: medical center trading corporation
Pioneer St., Cor. Shaw Blvd., Pasig City
Tels.: 632-1715 • 631-9355 • 637-9504
Fax: (0632) 631-7869 • E-mail: BMD@medcen.com.ph
MANILA: 711-8374 PASIG: 631-1715 LIPA: (043) 757-2051
PAMPANGA: (045) 636-3110 PANGASINAN: (075) 568-7390
CABANATUAN: (044) 940-7912 NAGA: (045) 473-8150
CEBU: (032) 254-2367 DAVAO: (082) 222-4404
ILOILO: (033) 320-1413 CAGAYAN DE ORO: (088) 856-8199

Available at mercury drug Stores Nationwide

ambiance one
Fine Furniture
Best Price for your Fresh Start!
Promo Period : July 13 - September 30, 2007



* Cash Purchases Only
More items offered at discounted price
For Inquiries, please call:
Tel. Nos. 637-6420 to 22 loc 301 or 302 or
e-mail : ambianceone@mariusholdings.com
Per DTI NCR Permit No. 2635 Series of 2007

ambiance one
Visit us at the following branches:
Shangri-La Mall Branch: Level 3, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, EDSA, Mandaluyong City, Tel. Nos. 634-2773 / 633-2394, Sun Cel No. 09228252046
Festival Mall Branch: Level 3., Festival Super Mall, Fil-invest, Muntinlupa City, Tel. Nos. 809-4061, Sun Cel No. 09228882084
Makati Branch: Mezzanine, Western Bldg., Pasay Road, Makati City, Tel. Nos. 887-3108, Sun Cel No. 09228252105
Manila Branch: Inside Western Marketing, C.M. Recto, Sta Cruz, Mla. Tel. Nos. 711-5667
Cubao Branch: Level 3, Western Bldg., P. Tuazon St., Cubao, Q.C. Tel. Nos. 437-6770

WAR SHOCKED: A Marine who survived the deadly encounter in Basilan may be reliving the hellish experience. EDWIN BACASMAS

Rome-based artist returns . . .

From page A1

"I just feel that since I have lived in Italy and there are 200,000 [Filipino workers there], we owe it to be able to somehow influence the Muslims to be good to this man who has also been good to them," said Concepcion, a labor sector representative in the House of Representatives during the Ramos administration.

He said Filipinos in Italy had been "very, very concerned" about Bossi's condition.

Bossi, 57, a member of the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions, was abducted by a still unknown group in Payao, Zamboanga Sibugay, on June 10.

Social responsibility

Concepcion said that while he and Bossi did not meet despite his almost five decades in Italy, he had felt compelled to lend his creativity to the Philippine government's efforts to rescue the priest.

He said the portrait, measuring 80 by 100 centimeters, was his "artistic expression laced with [his] social responsibility."

Using a photograph of Bossi that he had clipped from an Italian newspaper, Concepcion worked on the portrait for eight hours on Monday night using felt-tip pens in sepia and black.

He said he wanted to finish it in time for his flight to the Philippines, a homecoming he had arranged for a scheduled art lecture in a college in Davao City.

"We'll start the signature campaign to free Father Bossi. I think this man deserves it. He's given his life to these people. He's worked a lot for Muslims and Christians," said Concepcion, who was among the first Filipinos to organize mass actions in Rome against Ferdinand Marcos' dictatorship.

He said his portrait would be attached to a larger, separate canvas on which supporters of his planned interfaith movement could affix their signatures.

"I feel I owe it to Italy, which has been very good to Filipino workers, and to myself," said Concepcion, whose lineage is said to trace back to Muslim royalty.

Concepcion said he also intended to bring the portrait to Zamboanga.

"Through this, [Muslims and Christians] may express their collective indignation for the kidnapping and their communal outpouring of hope that Father Bossi's captors will release him at the soonest possible time," he said.

Sculptures

Concepcion honed his skills in art schools in the United States and Canada.

He is the only Filipino who made sculptures of two popes—of Paul VI (currently at the Vatican University) and of John Paul II (currently in Guam, a gift from the Vatican).

He has also made a 2-meter bronze statue of Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., whose assassination on August 21, 1983, triggered the beginning of the end of the Marcos dictatorship.

It's BACK, it's BETTER!
If you missed the last great sale, now is your FINAL chance to get the latest models and designs at a very special discount including some 2007 models

mid-year Sale! PART 2
from July 6 to July 30, 2007

Visit our 2000 + sqm² showroom and see the World's Finest Brands in Tiles, Bathroom Fixtures, Faucets, Accessories, Bathtubs and Whirlpools

UP TO 70% DISCOUNT On Selected Items

VENIS FABBRICA MARMI E GRANITI
PORCELANOSA
LAUFEN
HOESCH
HANSA

active global sourcing, inc.
225 Nicanor Garcia St. Bel-Air II, Makati City, Philippines 1227
Tel.: 8907821 / 8964450 / 8964964 Fax: 8968783
Showroom Hours: Monday - Friday 9 am to 6:30 pm / Saturday 9:30 to 4:30 pm

For more details visit our website: www.activeglobal.ph / email: activeglobalsourcing@yahoo.com Per DTI NCR Permit No. A1-486 Series of 2007

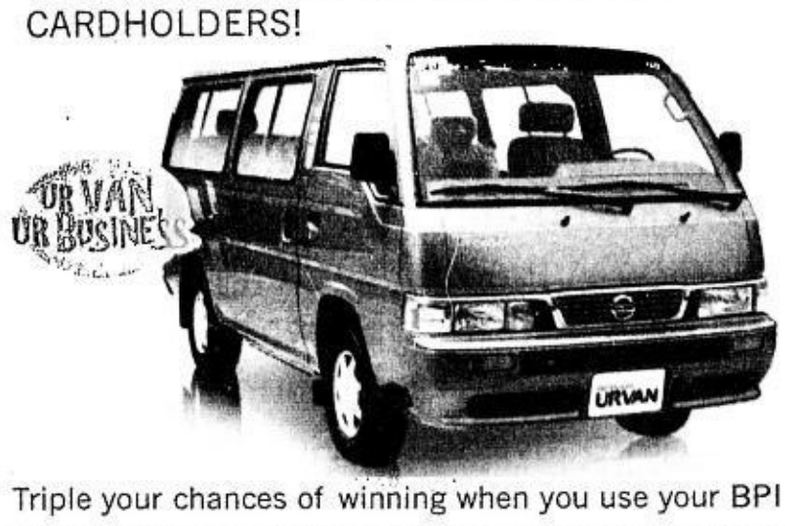
SM appliance CENTER
our name is your guarantee

BPI EXPRESS CREDIT

shop for your favorite appliances and gadgets at REAL 0%*
*on selected items

get a chance to win one of 30 prizes from acer®

EXCLUSIVE TO **BPI EXPRESS CREDIT** CARDHOLDERS!



and play for a chance to drive home a brand new NISSAN URVAN

Sponsored by: Universal Motors Corporation

Triple your chances of winning when you use your BPI Express Credit Card.

Every P1,000 purchase entitles you to a raffle coupon. Now thru July 31, 2007

want it? S.I.P it! REAL 0%

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2280 Series of 2007

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9279335 • NORTH EDSA ANNEX 9276576 • NORTH EDSA BASEMENT 9272650 • SM MAKATI 8161178 • HARRISON PLAZA 5246239 • SM CUBAO 9111159 • SM MEGAMALL 6335075 • SM CENTERPOINT 7150534 • SM SOUTHMALL 8003512 • SM CITY BACOOR (046) 4170258 • SM CITY FAIRVIEW 4176795 • SM CITY CEBU (032) 2319132 • SM DELGADO (033) 3373102 • SM CITY MANILA 5236693 • SM CITY PAMPANGA (045) 9616991 • SUCAT 8297346 • SM CITY ILOILO (033) 320-6355 • SM CITY DAVAO (082) 2977064 • ROCKWELL 8981619 • PODIUM 6871215 • SM CITY BICUTAN 7779256 • SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO (088) 8592601 • SM CITY LUCENA (088) 8592501 • SM CITY DASMARIÑAS (046) 423019 • ELIZABETH MALL (032) 2563679 (032) 2563681 • BATANGAS 8667735 • SM CITY SAN LAZARO 7812773 • SM CITY VALENZUELA 2919970 • SM MOLINO (046) 4743011-14 • V-MALL 7251011 • STA.ROSA (049) 5344550 • SM CITY BAGUIO (074) 6197695 • SM CITY CLARK (045) 5255812 • SM MALL OF ASIA 5660409 • THE BLOCK 4420183 • LIPA (043) 756-6552 BACOLOD (034) 4660060

SHOP, WIN and PLAY at SM APPLIANCE CENTER

Over the years, SM Appliance Center lives up to its commitment to provide quality home appliances and superb customer service. It's the shop to go to for the latest technology in the home theater scene, kitchen systems, and the latest gizmos and gadgets. With 37 branches, most of which are located at SM Supermalls, the store features colorful graphics and a lively ambience. Because SM Appliance wants to give you the comfort and convenience of shopping, our stores are designed to be customer- friendly which enables you to access any brand of appliances with ease.

If you are looking for the ultimate worthwhile experience in appliance shopping, head on to SM Appliance Center. Customers are definitely assured that shopping in SM Appliance Center will not go unrewarded. **SHOP, WIN** and **PLAY** is back with more surprises. **SHOP** for your favorite home appliances and gadgets at any SM Appliance Center, get a chance to **WIN** one of the 30 prizes from Acer Philippines (Acer Ferrari 4006, Acer Travelmate 3273, Acer Power Desktop, or an Acer XD 1150 Projector), and **PLAY** for a chance to drive home a brand new Nissan Urvan. A minimum purchase of P1,000 entitles you to join. Triple your chances of winning when you use your BPI Express Credit Card. Nine lucky BPI Express Credit Card holders will have a chance to play at the SM Mall of Asia Music Hall on August 25, 2007 and drive away in a brand new Nissan Urvan. Promo runs from June 1 to July 30, 2007.

SM Appliance Center Branches are located at all SM Supermalls, SM Makati, The Podium, Rockwell, and Elizabeth Mall in Cebu.

UMC'S 'UR VAN, UR BUSINESS: From Simple Transport to Unlimited Opportunities

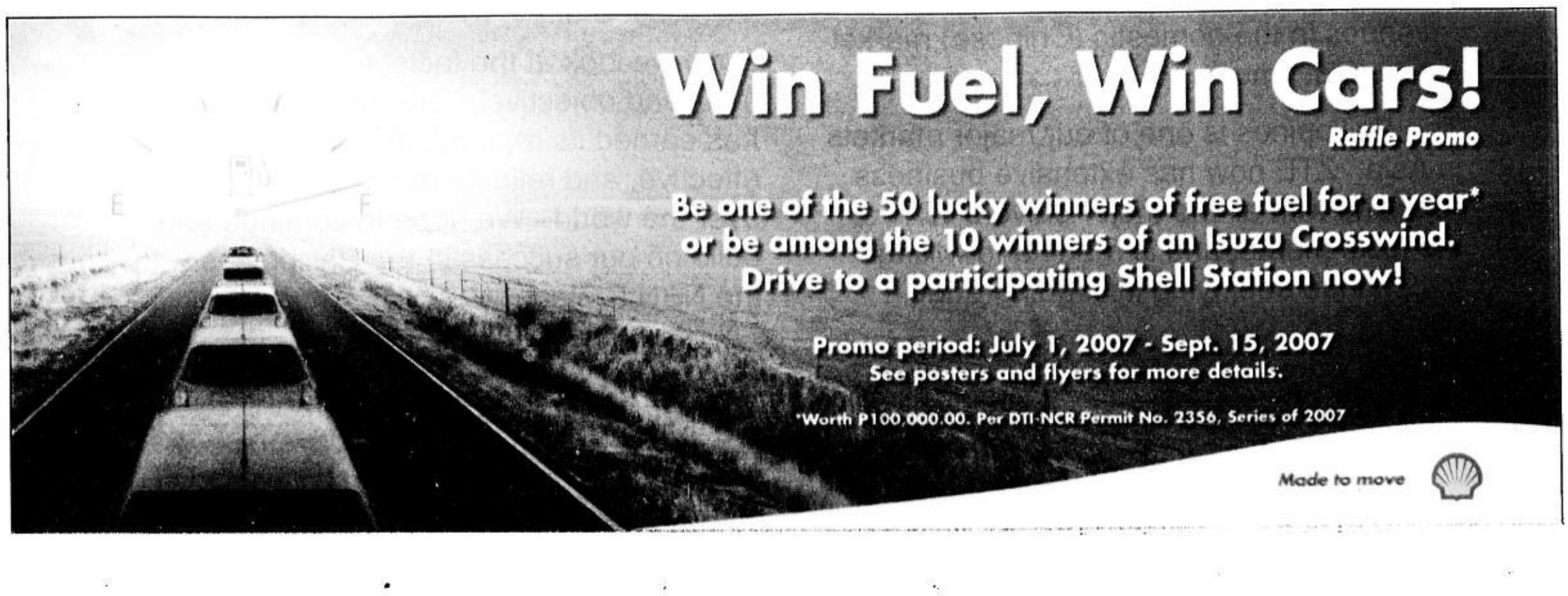
The innovative and pioneering **"Ur Van, Ur Business" (UVUB)** Program launched by Universal Motors Corporation (UMC) was designed to celebrate Filipino ingenuity and entrepreneurial spirit, using the Nissan Urvan as a self-liquidating mobile business venture that is easy to start with minimal capital outlay.

With the Nissan Urvan, one can start a shuttle business, or venture into the delivery business using the Urvan as a roving wet market, roving botica, roving store, and many more. There are unlimited ways of doing business using the Nissan Urvan.

As an added benefit, UVUB now offers free education for Urvan buyers through a roving academy under **"Asenso Negsoyo Academy" (ANA)** that teaches the basics of Entrepreneurship, helping the buyers succeed in their business.

UVUB shows you an option to supplement your current income with a roving mobile business. Let "Ur Van, Ur Business" through the Nissan Urvan, help you start your business today. For

Advtl.



SO THE PUBLIC MAY KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT ZTE CORPORATION, ITS DESIRE, CAPACITY, AND WILLINGNESS TO CONTRIBUTE TO PHILIPPINE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE NBN PROJECT OF DOTC

There have been a number of negative reports and accusations regarding ZTE and the National Broadband Network (NBN) Project in the Philippine media recently. **These reports and accusations, which include insinuations or allegations of corporate wrong-doing and even criminal activity, are untrue and unfair.**

As a listed company in the Hong Kong and Shenzhen stock exchanges, ZTE is mandated to operate under a strict corporate governance system and its business operations and activities are closely scrutinized and regulated. ZTE complies strictly not only with Chinese law, but also the local laws and regulations in all the other countries it operates around the world. ZTE entered into the NBN Project in compliance with the relevant Philippine laws and regulations.

The accusations of bribery and corruption against ZTE are totally untrue, baseless, and highly unfair. ZTE reserves the right to take the appropriate legal action against the persons responsible for these libelous allegations.

Some media reports claim that ZTE has a very poor record in the international market. Those reports are also inaccurate and highly unfair.

ZTE was founded in 1985 and began undertaking business activities outside China in 1995. We now have global operations in more than 100 countries where we have established commercial partnerships with around 500 operators.

As a global leading telecommunications equipment and solution provider, ZTE has supplied products and solutions in various sector including government, telecom operators, and multinational enterprises In the 1st quarter of 2007, and after around 12 years' operations, ZTE's revenues in the overseas market overtook and exceeded revenues in the domestic (Chinese) market for the first time.

The Philippines is one of our major markets in Asia. ZTE now has extensive business relations with all the major players in the local market and is ready and willing to continue deploying its leading-edge technologies and products with customized solutions and high cost-effectiveness to serve the Filipino people. The NBN Project is proof of that continuing commitment.

The media reports concerning ZTE's supposed poor record or even wrong-doing in countries such as Mexico, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Burma, Liberia and Libya are also totally untrue, unfounded, and even malicious. There are very serious errors in these reports about the countries, projects, and project volumes supposedly relating to ZTE. Some of the projects mentioned in the reports do not even exist at all! Given the brazenness of these total fabrications, one cannot help but suspect that certain persons are waging a deliberate and malicious attack against ZTE in the media to mislead the public.

ZTE enjoys a very good reputation in the global telecommunications industry because of its achievements and track record. Despite the fierce competition in the global market, ZTE has become increasingly recognized and acknowledged around the world by virtue of its cutting-edge technologies, powerful innovation capabilities, its superior customization service, and cost-effectiveness. So it is perhaps no coincidence that ZTE has become the subject of media attacks consisting of negative news, misleading reports, or even total fabrications. The obvious goal of all these is to damage ZTE's reputation and undermine its ability to compete.

But if we look at the facts, just the facts, fairly and objectively, one will see that ZTE has earned its reputation as a trustworthy, effective, and reliable business partner all over the world. We hope to continue and build on our success in the Philippines with the NBN Project.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Robinsons Supermarket

WOW! Low, Low Prices!

July 13 - 26, 2007

Gala Apple #198 — ₱11 per pc.

Native Orange Seedless — ₱50 per kg.

Supersavers **Ground Pork** — ₱138 per kg.

Supersavers **Porkchop (SOBI)** — ₱143 per kg.

Fragrant Pears — ₱90 per kg.

Banana Heart — ₱35 per kg.

White Radish — ₱30 per kg.

Ginger — ₱42 per kg.

SMFI **Chicken Wings** — ₱125 per kg.

Supersavers **Beef Shank** — ₱205 per kg.

Seasoned **Daing na Bangus** — ₱22 per pc.

Live Hito — ₱90 per kg.

Aji Ginisa Flavor Mix (250g) — ₱46.50 per pc.

Aji Ginisa Flavor Mix (7g x 12's) — ₱24.75 per pc.

HOT BUY

Safeguard Menthol (135g) with Free Rejoice Leave-On (5ml) — ₱25.75 per pc.

Kiko Fly Paper — ₱11.75 per pc.

Kiko Fly Paper 1/2 Sheet (3's) — ₱22 per pc.

Enfagrow A+ (1.8 kg.) with Free Kids Dough or Kids Stamp Playset. — ₱823 per pc.

Mama Sita's Oyster Sauce (405g) — ₱55.50 per pc.

TOBLERONE TOBLERONE

Toblerone Milk (200g) — ₱119.50 per pc.

Nescafe 3 in 1 Sweet & Creamy (14g x 10) — ₱46.05 per box

Gold Label Rolled Oats (1kg) — ₱105 per pc.

E-Aji Fries with Peppered Mayo Dip (60g) — ₱15.25 per pc.

E-Aji Nacho Flaming Hot Salsa Dip (80g) — ₱15.25 per pc.

Gold Label Instant Oats (1kg) — ₱85.75 per pc.

Enfakid A+ (1.8 kg) with Free Kids Dough or Kids Stamp Playset. — ₱799 per pc.

Mama Sita's BBQ Marinade (350ml) — ₱43.50 per pc.

Nescafe 3 in 1 Intense (14g x 10) — ₱46.05 per box

TOBLERONE TOBLERONE

Toblerone Milk (100g) — ₱61.75 per pc.

Dari Creme Lite (250g) — ₱40.85 per pc.

Nestle Chuckie Choco Rainbow (1.7L) — ₱161.50 per pc.

Marby Thick Sandwich Cut (600g) — ₱38.50 per pc.

Lemon Square Stuffins Assorted (10's) — ₱45.50 per pack

Bibbo Cheesedog Regular (1kg) — ₱147 per pack

CDO Hamburger Patties (225g) — ₱31 per pack

Creamsilk Conditioner Straight & Relaxed (200ml) — ₱73.50 per pc.

Creamsilk Conditioner Protect & Revite (200ml) — ₱89.25 per pc.

Drypers Wee wee Dry Jumbo XL (40's) — ₱370 per pack

Drypers Wee wee Dry Jumbo Large (48's) — ₱395 per pack

Palmolive Nutri Milk with Moisturizer (125g) — ₱31 per pc.

Tender Care Honey Milk (125g) — ₱20 per pc.

Smile Baby Diaper Medium (24's) — ₱136 per pack

Smile Baby Diaper Extra Large (16's) — ₱123 per pack

Jolly Cow Fresh Milk (1 Liter) — ₱43

Milo Fuze (32g) — ₱9.40

Oreo Cookies Zero Transfat (150g) — ₱25

APPLE TAG SPECIALS — We value your health

San Remo Organic Spaghetti (500g) — ₱115.40

Century Tuna Hot & Spicy Lite (180g) — ₱26.25

Welchade Grape Juice Drink (360ml) — ₱30

Get Discounts Daily on Healthy Choices

Eat Well Spend Less

http://www.robinsonssupermarket.com.ph

Per DTI-NCR Permit # 2591 Series of 2007.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO and Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates applaud the speech of former President Fidel Ramos at the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference in Hainan province, China, on April 21. Ms Arroyo witnessed the signing of the highly controversial $329-million broadband contract while she was in Boao. PCPO

Doubts on $329-M broadband deal swept under the rug

From page A1

ing held, at about 2 a.m.

But shortly after the $329-million deal was signed—believe it or not—someone slipped into the hotel room of the Philippine delegation and stole the Philippine government's copy of the contract.

The motive for the theft is unknown, but it did to the contract what a magnet does to metal shards.

Hesitance, confusion

Little is known of the details of the NBN deal but documents obtained by the INQUIRER showed initial government hesitance and confusion, before it plunged into the broadband pool.

Minutes of meetings, letters and other documents show an attitude toward broadband different from what Ms Arroyo showed at the BFA, where she shared the stage with Bill Gates, one of the world's richest men who built his wealth on the IT revolution.

Amid the haze, one thing that came out clearly, though, was that no one among the NBN proponents could say for sure how much the government would save in terms of telecommunications expenses, the only selling point of the NBN.

Documents pieced together by the INQUIRER would unravel key details of what the stolen copies of the contract contained.

They showed that officials pushing for the project knew this to be "nonrevenue generating."

During meetings on the NBN, proponents said the project had "no-cost recovery," a financial term that meant only one thing—the Philippine government won't earn anything from it.

Loan from China

But the proponents defended the project before Ms Arroyo with one come-on—that instead of the government spending P3 billion to P4 billion on phone and Internet bills, it would be better off paying about P999 million a year for the loan to be extended by China that would go to building the NBN.

"The benefits are even greater considering the five-year grace period when no amortization is required," said a briefing paper prepared by NBN proponents.

The minutes of the meetings showed that some officials wanted to be certain about how much the government would save as a result of the project's plan to make use of technology called Voice-over-Internet Protocol, or VoIP, in which phone calls pass through the Internet at supposedly lower cost.

But no one had certain answers, according to the minutes.

"Planning Secretary Neri sought clarification on how VoIP savings could translate into benefits for the government," said notes on one meeting held on March 26 at the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) office in Pasig, about a month before the deal was signed.

"The secretariat replied that with the project, the government will reduce its fixed-line subscription by as much as 50 percent and its fax and mobile phone costs by about 80 percent," the minutes said.

Uncertainty over savings

As the meeting progressed, however, the uncertainty over the amount of savings grew, as it turned out that mobile phone use wasn't covered by the project, the minutes showed.

"Such savings, however, will exclude those for mobile communications as the NBN does not have a mobile component," the minutes said.

"In addition (Transportation and Communications) Assistant Secretary (Lorenzo) Formoso (III) explained that calls made within the network would be toll-free while calls outside the network would be subject to interconnection charges," the minutes said.

Savings ultimate goal

"He (Formoso) added that the VoIP savings have already been discounted on the assumption that interconnection charges will have to be paid," the minutes added.

It was Formoso who broke the news of the theft of the Philippine government's copy of the contract.

Savings were the ultimate objective of the project on which Ms Arroyo didn't want to spend government funds, as minutes of a Cabinet meeting in 2006 showed.

President's justification

"The only way I, as Neda chair, would approve this (broadband network project) is if it will give us VoIP that's cheaper than our cell phone bills now," a transcript of a Nov. 21, 2006 meeting of the Neda-Cabinet group quoted Ms Arroyo as saying.

"That's the only way to justify it," the President told the officials who were presenting IT project proposals to her during the meeting.

During that meeting, the discussion between Ms Arroyo, Neri, and the head of the little known Commission on Information and Communication Technology (CICT), Ramon Sales, shifted from one project to another that would rely on broadband technology.

But throughout the meeting, Ms Arroyo was consistent on one thing—no government funds are to be used for a broadband network.

New technology

At one point, Sales was explaining the use of new technology called IPV6 (Internet Protocol Version 6) that would provide faster and more efficient access to the Internet because it opens new addresses that could no longer be accommodated by its predecessor, the 20-year-old Internet Protocol Version 4 or IPV4, which is in current use today.

"Probably I don't know what is IPV6," Ms Arroyo said.

"What happens, Ma'am, if you are in the old protocol (IPV4) is you won't be able to access things you want," Sales said.

"But whom do you want to access *ba*? If you're a farmer you want to find out what is the latest price of fertilizers. Do you need to go to IPV6? I'm asking this only because I'm gonna spend money. But if you're not gonna spend money, that's fine. You can do what you want," was Ms Arroyo's reply to Sales, whose resignation as CICT head she accepted on July 3. *(Conclusion tomorrow.)*

Where goes the Mindanao vote

Many pundits have opined that both Juan Miguel "Migz" Zubiri and Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III epitomize the new blood needed in Philippine politics and the Senate. Migz, a three-term representative, is considered a veteran legislator and one of the best performing in the last Congress. Koko, lawyer and bar topnotcher, is among the more prepared candidates. He offers a lot of promise. Both are young, driven and idealistic. They are also both from Mindanao.

Migz and Koko, maybe at least once, endorsed each other during the campaign. They shared the battle cry "Mindanao for Mindanaoans" in rallying the support of Southern Philippine's electorate for the Mindanaoan candidates (including Surigao's Prospero Pichay and Sulu's Jamalul Kiram). Mindanao needs more representation in the Senate. It is to the best interest of Mindanao for both Koko and Migz to make it to the Senate. Currently, only Koko's father Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr. is there to advance the interests of Mindanao in the Upper Chamber.

It is unfortunate that the two young Mindanao leaders had to lock horns in the battle for the 12th seat contested way back May 14, 2007. They both have Mindanao in their hearts. They are both more qualified than many to be senators. But in the end, who should really speak for Mindanao, now that only one of them can take a seat.

Zubiri has the edge over Pimentel when it comes to the Mindanao votes. Zubiri ranked 3rd overall in Mindanao against Pimentel's 10th. Except for Zamboanga and General Santos Cities, known opposition bailiwicks, Zubiri is in the magic 12 of all provinces of Mindanao. In their head-to-head contest, Zubiri was #1 in region X and took regions IX, ARMM and CARAGA. Pimentel posted slight leads in regions XI and XII. Even the controversial province of Maguindanao, it was a known fact that 20 out of 22 towns had officials of the administration party unopposed all the way down to the last Kagawad paving the way for a clean sweep of Team Unity bets. Genuine opposition even admitted that they never stepped foot in the province to campaign unlike Zubiri who visited it 3 times. In Mindanao, Zubiri is ahead of Pimentel by over 500,000 votes. Add to this, Zubiri ranked #5 in Cebu, #2 in Negros Occidental, #8 in Iloilo, #7 in Antique, #6 Capiz, #4 in Bohol and in all this provinces Pimentel failed to enter the magic 12. These results make Zubiri the true Vis-Min representative, albeit his win is also truly their win.

Much of these were expected by the Zubiri camp. They knew that their Cebuano and Ilonggo speaking candidate will get the votes in all these areas. There were surprises in some Luzon and NCR tallies where surveys, exit polls and canvassed polls show high discrepancies.

Towards the end of the campaign all indicators pointed to a Zubiri win, everybody expected him to. If there is any incongruity it is for Zubiri to not make it to the Senate. A few days before the elections the SWS-PDI survey showed him in 9-10th place overall, 2nd in Mindanao. The last Pulse Asia survey positioned him at between 10-12th. All these were confirmed by an exit poll conducted by ABS-CBN where he ranked 11th-12th. The abbreviated tally of GMA7-AMA also showed him at 11th.

It is interesting, to say the least, if in the end the results say otherwise.

It is now time to put the 2007 elections behind us and start the process of healing and most importantly start working, working for the greater good of Mindanao and the rest of our nation.

	Juan Miguel "Migz" Zubiri		Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III	
	VOTES	RANK	VOTES	RANK
Region IX				
ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE	127,610	5th	86,121	16th
ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR	152,809	4th	70,859	16th
ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY	65,495	5th	59,529	9th
ZAMBOANGA CITY	61,323	14th	100,688	9th
REGIONAL TOTAL	407,237		317,197	
Region X				
BUKIDNON	328,970	1st	139,628	7th
CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY	98,079	3rd	88,556	6th
CAMIGUIN	23,522	1st	17,175	6th
LANAO DEL NORTE	166,365	1st	116,709	13th
MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL	100,794	1st	74,545	11th
MISAMIS ORIENTAL	173,420	1st	163,910	3rd
REGIONAL TOTAL	891,150		600,523	
Region XI				
COMPOSTELA VALLEY	91,995	7th	84,565	11th
DAVAO CITY	201,126	8th	217,854	6th
DAVAO DEL NORTE	129,166	9th	135,609	8th
DAVAO DEL SUR	104,934	9th	121,683	5th
DAVAO ORIENTAL	56,926	9th	69,536	3rd
REGIONAL TOTAL	584,147		629,247	
Region XII				
NORTH COTABATO	143,493	9th	140,706	10th
SARANGANI	44,446	11th	49,845	8th
SOUTH COTABATO	90,181	12th	120,137	10th
SULTAN KUDARAT	91,444	8th	83,347	11th
GENERAL SANTOS CITY	51,493	13th	72,219	10th
REGIONAL TOTAL	421,057		466,254	
A.R.M.M.				
BASILAN	37,336	9th	25,536	20th
LANAO DEL SUR	101,851	4th	112,390	3rd
SHARIF KABUNSUAN	100,280	5th	72,283	13th
MAGUINDANAO	195,823	1st	67,111	15th
SULU	48,465	6th	32,966	17th
TAWI-TAWI	19,705	11th	11,267	22nd
REGIONAL TOTAL	503,460		321,553	
CARAGA				
AGUSAN DEL NORTE	110,076	5th	96,310	8th
AGUSAN DEL SUR	76,463	6th	63,592	11th
SURIGAO DEL NORTE	56,011	11th	56,165	10th
SURIGAO DEL SUR	65,901	9th	59,615	10th
DINAGAT ISLANDS	22,295		10,439	16th
REGIONAL TOTAL	330,746		286,121	
TOTALS FOR MINDANAO	3,137,797		2,620,895	

Paid for by the United Coalition for Mindanao

LETTER TO GMA

Jalosjos rape victim relives nightmare

By Tarra Quismundo

CONVICTED RAPIST FORMER REPRESENTATIVE Romeo Jalosjos' being in the news again recently over a presidential commutation of his sentence has awakened the sense of rage of his victim of over 10 years ago.

Crying out for justice a second time, Jalosjos' victim has broken her silence and expressed outrage over President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to commute the former Zamboanga del Norte congressman's sentence.

In an emotional letter addressed to Ms Arroyo, the victim, now living in another country under a different name, appealed to the President not to cut to 16 years Jalosjos' double life sentence.

"Please extend your compassion not to your political ally but to an innocent victim. Please do not condone his crime. I appeal to you. I deserve my justice. Please do not take it away from me," wrote the victim in a letter she sent through her lawyer, Katrina Legarda.

"I would never feel safe if you release him from his deserved life in prison. You might not fear the criticisms of people against your decision but God will make sure that justice prevails," said the victim, who signed the letter in her former name.

Now 24, she appealed to the President woman to woman.

"My nightmare is not over. The scars will never fade. I still remember everything. Please listen to me. You are a woman. You have children and grandchildren," she said in the letter, written in perfect English.

Legarda sent a copy of the letter to the INQUIRER, as well as a separate letter addressed to the Filipino people that the victim wanted aired.

Legarda said the victim must have read about the commutation online.

"As a lawyer, it is very clear to me this girl has not really recovered from her experience because her recovery to date was based on the fact that he was in jail and so she felt safe. It seems here that feeling of safety has been removed," Legarda told the INQUIRER.

In the victim's separate letter to the public, she poured out her disgust over her abuser's shortened sentence.

She then went on to recount the abuse she suffered in the hands of Jalosjos after her stepfather pimped her to him.

"He did not listen to my cries. He ignored my tears. He raped and abused me repeatedly. He was about to buy me to be his live-in sex slave if I had not escaped. I was only 11," she said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, July 13, 2007
14th Week in Ordinary Time
Henry

1st Reading: Gen 46:1-7, 28-30
Gospel: Matthew 10:16-23

Jesus said to his disciples, "Look, I send you out like sheep among wolves. You must be clever as snakes and innocent as doves. Be on your guard with respect to people, for they will hand you over to their courts and they will flog you in their synagogues. You will be brought to trial before rulers and kings because of me, and so you may witness to them and the pagans.

"But when you are arrested, do not worry about what you are to say and how you are to say it; when the hour comes, you will be given what you are to say. For it is not you who will speak; but it will be the Spirit of your Father in you.

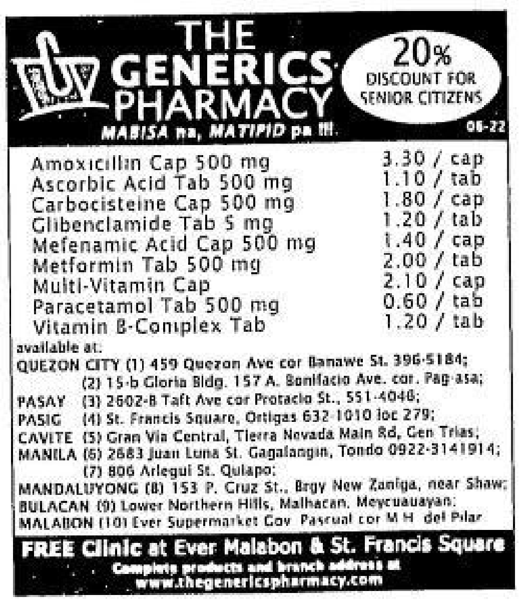
"Brother will hand over brother to death, and a father his child; children will turn against parents and have them put to death. Everyone will hate you because of me, but whoever stands firm to the end will be saved.

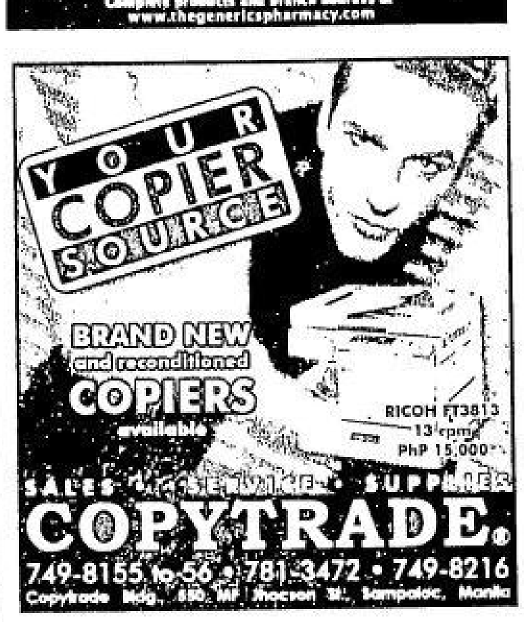
"When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next. For sure, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes."

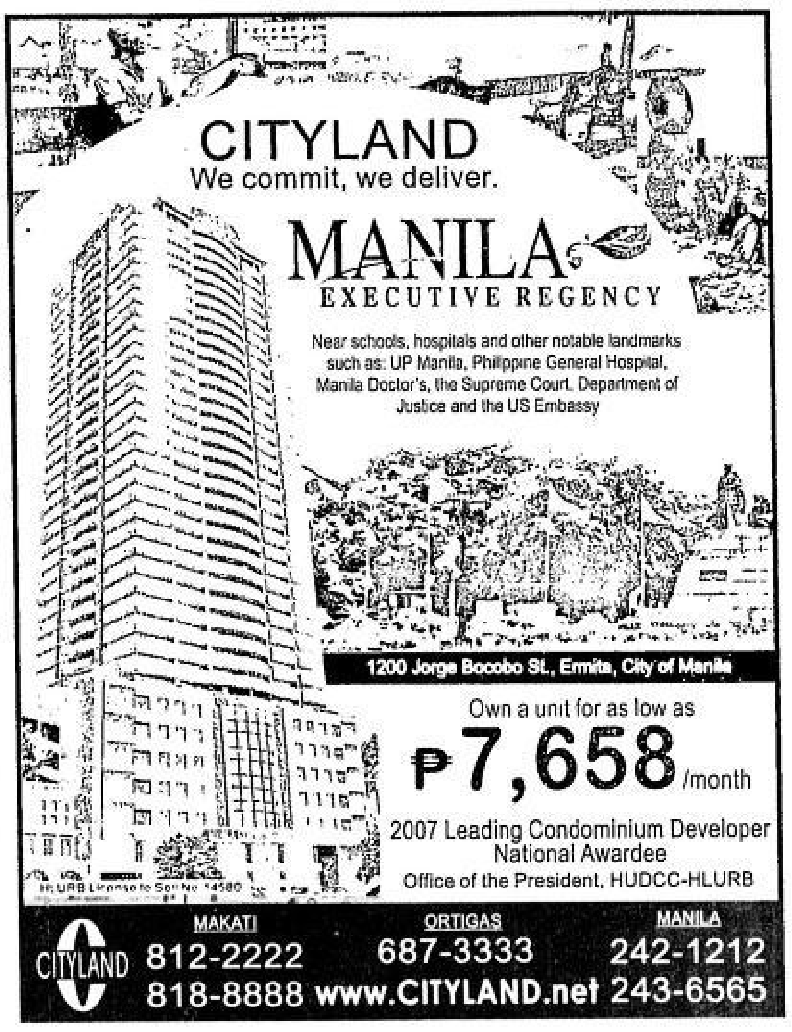
Commentary

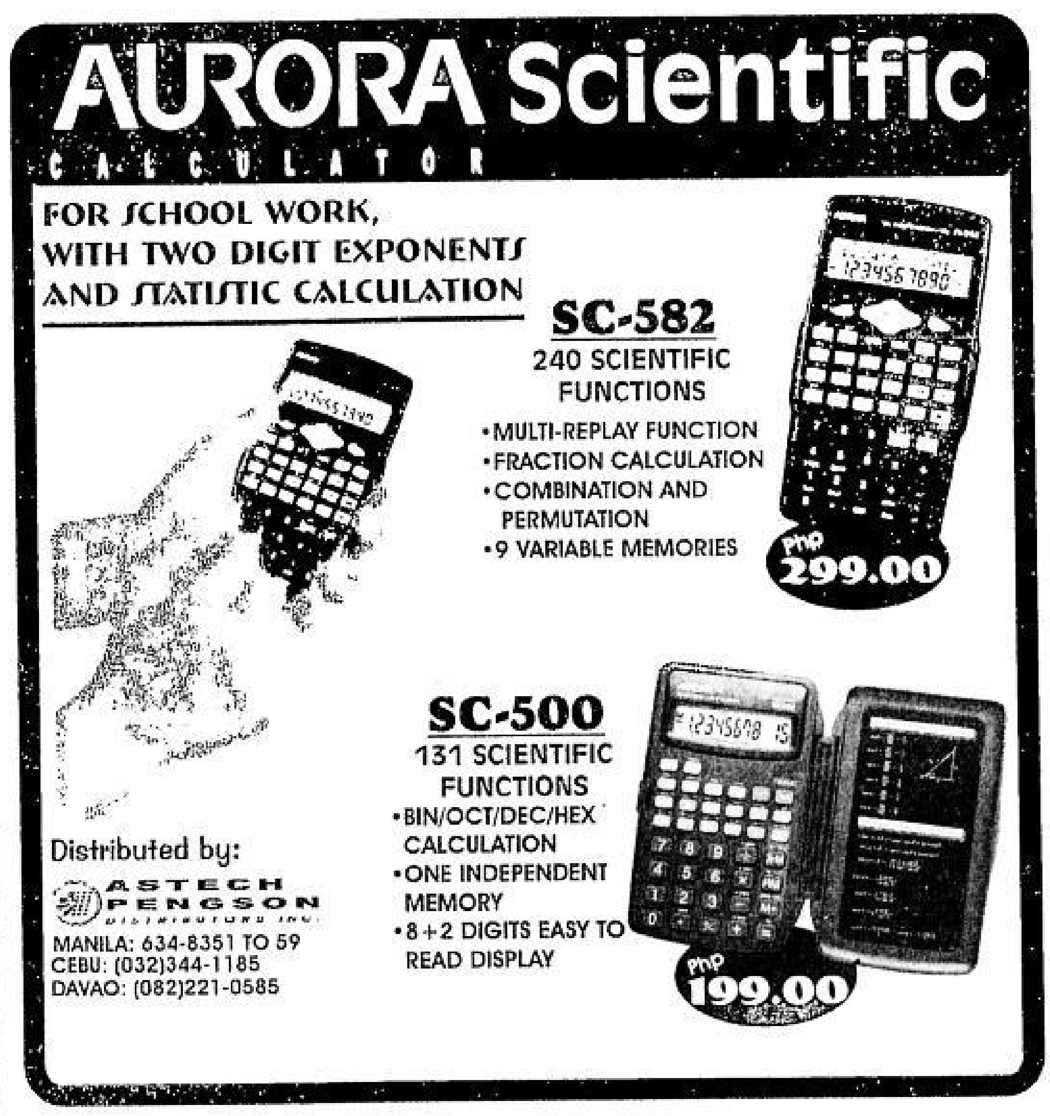
Israel (Jacob), Joseph's father, goes to Beer-sheba and prays. He again has a vision and God calls out to him. He answers and God reveals himself to him, with the ancient promises given again but saying that he will return one day. So all of Israel moves to Egypt. Joseph meets his father again at long last in Goshen (where Moses will come from) and they fall into each other's arms. Israel feels that he can now die because his beloved son, first born of Rachel, is alive. The promise will continue, but it is Joseph who has learned so much about his father and the God of his ancestors—Yahweh. What have we learned from our families and elders about who God is—and have we learned forgiveness no matter what?

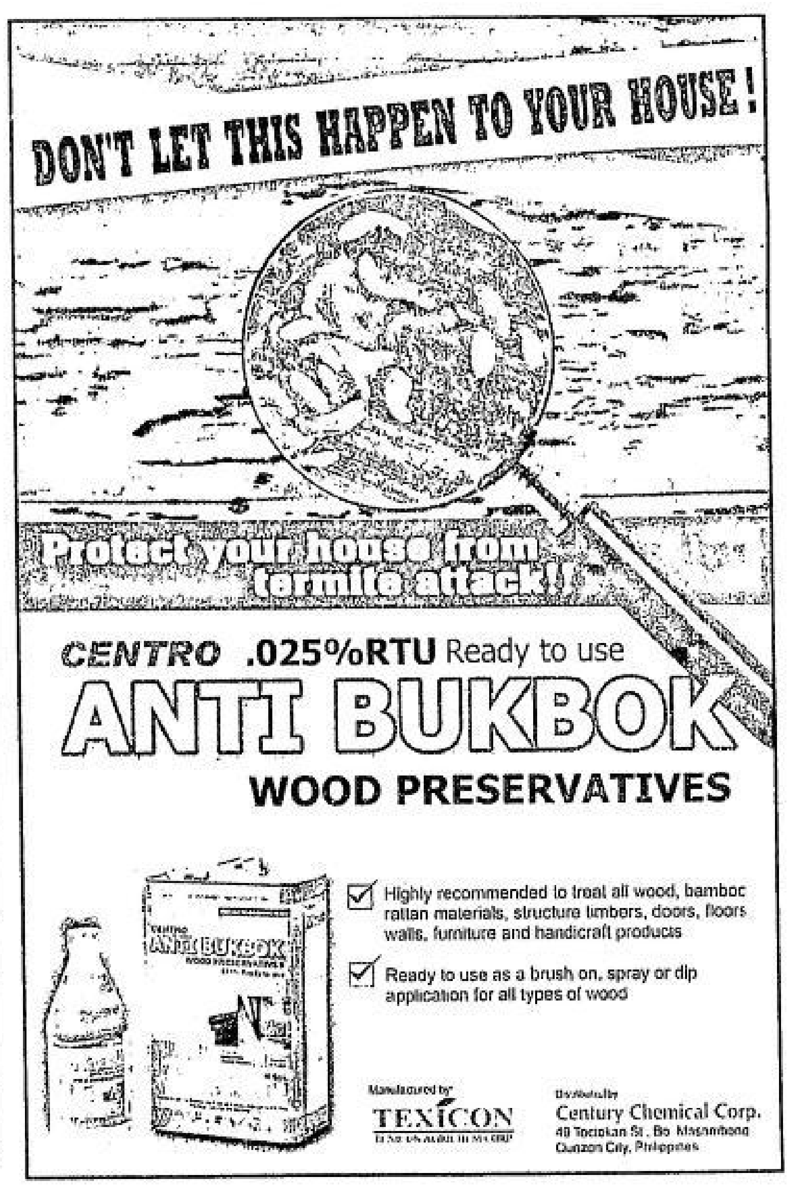
Jesus warns us that if we preach the gospel we will have much to contend with in the world of politics, as well as in military and economic power. We will be jailed, beaten, flogged, and brought to trial (which was the experience of the church for the first 300+ years). But he gives us the Spirit to abide with us, gives us words, courage, and strength to stand up for what we believe—the Father will be speaking through us. There will be violence in families just like there was of old with Joseph and his brothers. But if we are faithful then we will escape death—the death of the soul, the heart, and the spirit. And our God, the Son of Man, will one day come and there will be vindication—there will be a reckoning of justice, and yet there will also be forgiveness.

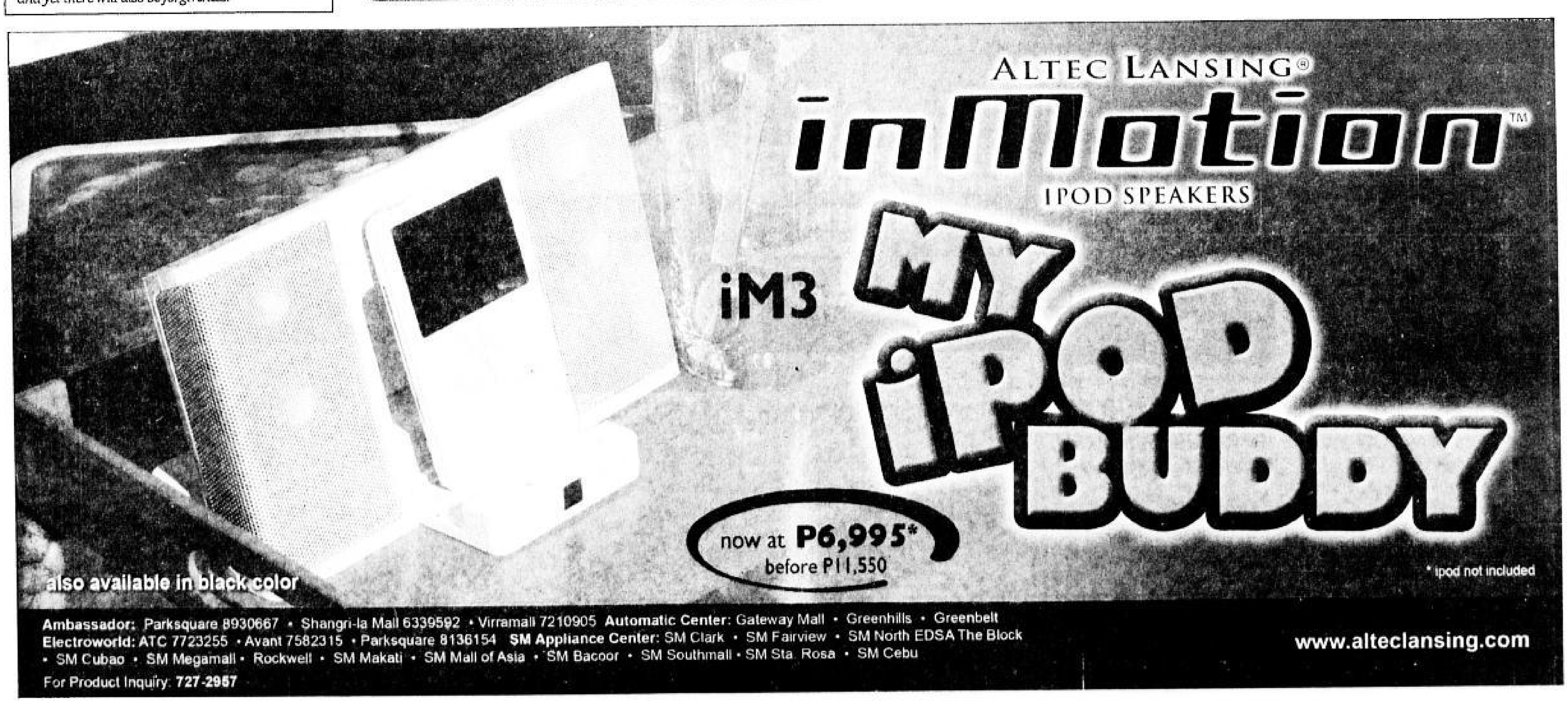




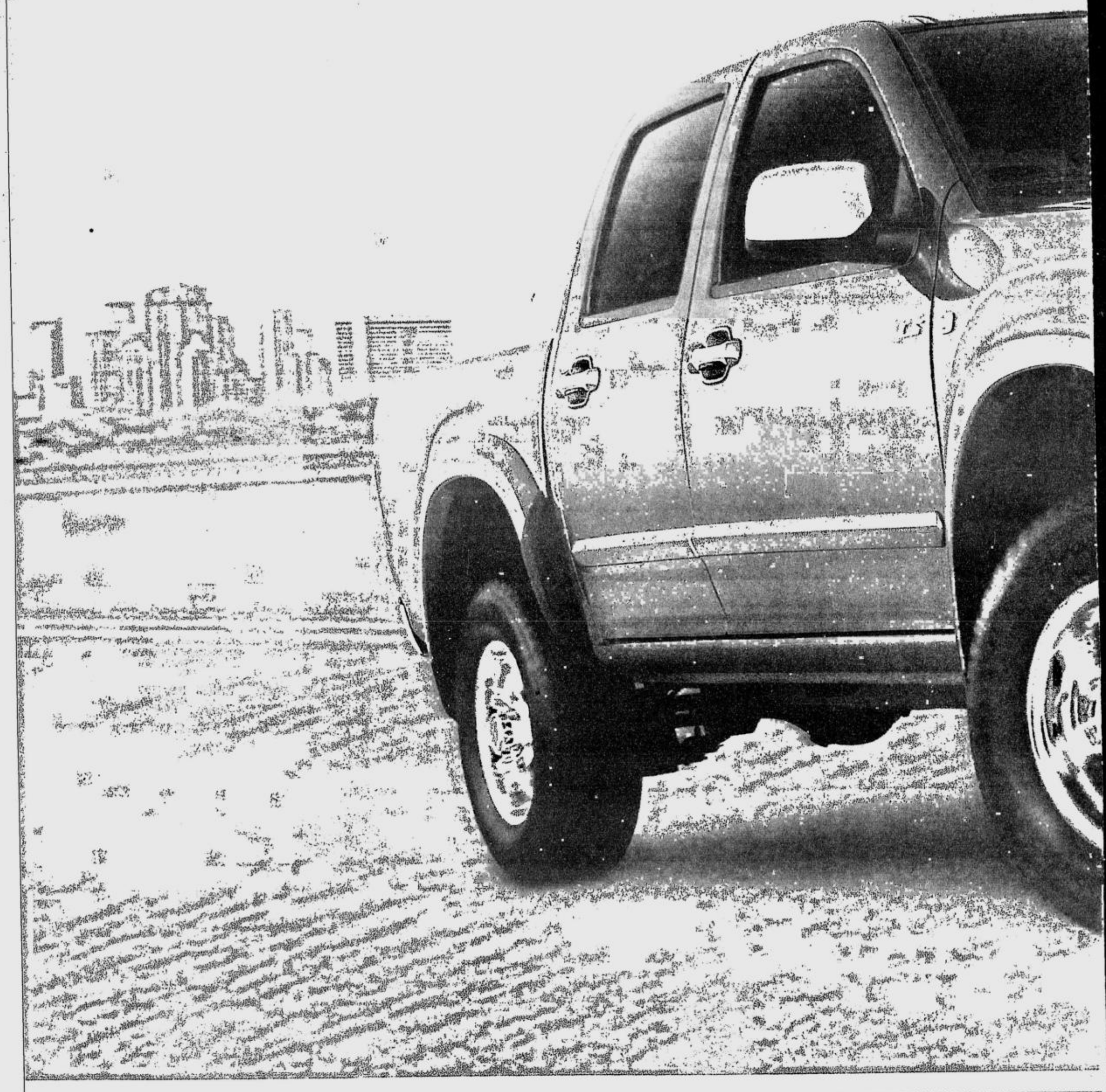






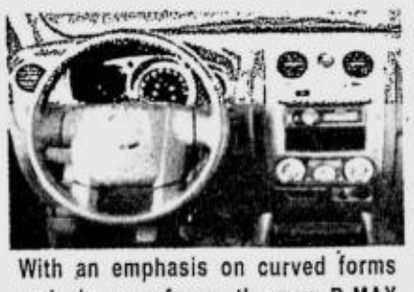


IN THE REAL WORLD, YOU HAVE TO MEASURE UP.



New! 3.0L i-TEQ 4JJ1-TC Direct injection 3rd Generation Commonrail Diesel Engine with Turbo Intercooler. With a max output of 146ps@3800rpm, 294n.m@1,400-3,400rpm of torque, Euro-2 compliant. A Real World of Power.

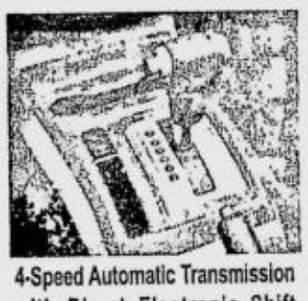
NEW! Projector Type Front Head Lamps and Round Type Fog Lights. Not only do they give an elegant look, but increased visibility as well. Change Your World View.



With an emphasis on curved forms and clean surfaces, the new D-MAX has a fresh looking yet classic interior. A World of Elegance.

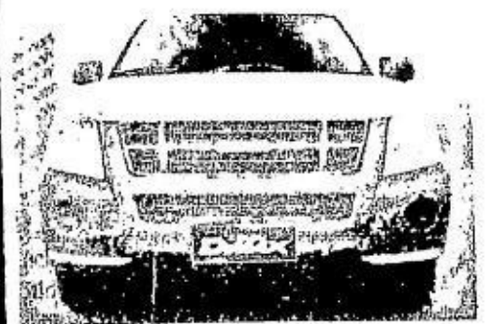
Bucket seats finished in dark gray fabric with sports jersey combination plus silver accent front panel and door trims. A World of Comfort.

OPTITRON Meters with Digital Ambient Temperature Display and Average Consumption Meter. A World of Innovation.



4-Speed Automatic Transmission with Direct Electronic Shift Control (DESC), grade logic control system, 3rd start mode and power mode. Silver accented shift lever design. The World at Your Fingertips.

METRO MANILA ALABANG Tel: (02) 8071788 • COMMONWEALTH Tel: (02) 9522760 EDSA Tel: (02) 4104837 to 38 • MAKATI Tel: (02) 8179995 • MANILA Tel: (02) 5624601 to 15 • PASIG Tel: (02) 6713434 • QUEZON AVENUE Tel: (02) 9267111 • LUZON BATANG
PANGASINAN Tel: (075) 5234825 • VISMIN BACOLOD Tel: (034) 4412050 • CAGAYAN DE ORO Tel: (088) 8561892 • DAVAO Tel: (082) 2973344 • ILOILO Tel: (033) 5087877 • MANDAUE/CEBU Tel: (032) 3463090 Assembled and distrib



Also available in 2.5L D-MAX LT model.
A World of Difference.

ISUZU

THE GLOBAL D-MAX

Out to conquer the world with Isuzu's global standards in build and craftsmanship. From its 3rd generation i-TEQ commonrail direct injection diesel with turbo intercooler to the higher level of interior appointments, the new D-MAX is what you need to measure up in the real world.

ISUZU 10th ANNIVERSARY

Tel: (043) 7781227 • BULACAN Tel: (044) 6703352 • CABANATUAN Tel: (044) 4638215 • CAVITE Tel: (02) 7505629 • ISABELA Tel: (078) 6522030 • PAMPANGA Tel: (045) 9617880 • SAN PABLO Tel: (049) 5629996 •

ıted by: Isuzu Philippines Corporation Tel. No. (049) 5410224 • Fax Nos. (02) 8420202, (049) 5410333

www.isuzuphil.com

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

FRIDAY, JULY 13, 2007

ISSN 0116-2642

INQUIRER

Vol. 22 No. 215

OPINION

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Website: www.inquirer.net/opinion

Text us your feedback: Inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
•Subscription Hotline 896-6000

Savages on the loose

EDITORIAL

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO CALLED IT right. Last Tuesday's ambush of a search-and-rescue military convoy in Albarka, Basilan—14 Marines looking for kidnapped Italian missionary Fr. Giancarlo Bossi were killed, 10 of them beheaded—was a bestial act, the work of savages. To this deliberate provocation the national leadership must respond with both iron fist and open mind. The Armed Forces of the Philippines must bring the savages to justice. But the government must also push peace negotiations with Moro separatists, finally, to a fair conclusion.

A senior military officer said the beheadings were a sure sign that Abu Sayyaf bandits were involved. "Only the Abu Sayyaf is into beheading people," the officer said.

But the presence and the participation of Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels in the ambush, confirmed on Wednesday by Mohagher Iqbal himself, the separatist movement's chief negotiator, complicates the matter considerably. The government is engaged in peace negotiations with the MILF, an undertaking that may be only several months away from completion. The MILF's role in the ambush has cast a pall on the peace talks. Because of the ambush, the nagging question that drives critics of any peace agreement has gained emotional resonance: Can the government, in fact, trust the rebels?

The MILF has certainly some explaining to do. Iqbal could readily claim self-defense as the reason for the MILF's armed response to the convoy's passage through Barangay Ginanta, but he was at a loss to explain the beheadings. "I received the report that our troops beheaded seven Marines. We are investigating and determining the identities of those involved." (He also said MILF rebels had recovered 11 headless bodies, not 10.)

Many of the details of the ambush, described by GMA reporter Jun Veneracion as hell on earth, remain enveloped in the so-called fog of war. But a careful review of the first reports tells us that the following facts are key, and that together they paint a bleak picture indeed.

First: The ambush took place in Barangay Ginanta, the site of an MILF redoubt. The entry of seven military vehicles into the area suggests that it was the MILF, taking advantage of the pouring rain, that started the skirmish. Iqbal said there was lack of proper coordination; rebels could have taken the unexpected sight of unknown military trucks as a provocation. But Marine spokesman Lt. Col. Ariel Caculitan criticized that line of thinking: surely, he said, lack of coordination was "not a go-signal to consider attacking Marine troops."

Second: The ambush started in the morning and lasted about 10 hours. The military estimates that about 400 bandits and "lawless elements" took part in the ambush. (The MILF claims four of its guerrillas were killed and seven were wounded.) The duration of the skirmish suggests that it could only have been sustained by other armed groups joining forces with MILF rebels. Caculitan has raised that same possibility: "considering blood relations and other connections in the community," it may well be that "other lawless groups" joined the battle.

Third: According to Veneracion, the houses in the village the convoy passed through were ominously empty. This, soldiers had told him some time before, usually meant "trouble" ahead. Why? Imminent armed action naturally forces villagers to flee to safer ground.

Taken together, what do these facts, and the logical implications they carry, tell us about the situation in Basilan?

The AFP remains on the losing end of the war for hearts and minds; we find it telling that not a single resident tried to send a warning to the military convoy.

Also, the lines that divide anti-AFP forces are porous indeed: MILF, Abu Sayyaf, "lawless elements"—in certain villages the differences may not make much of a difference, or may not exist at all.

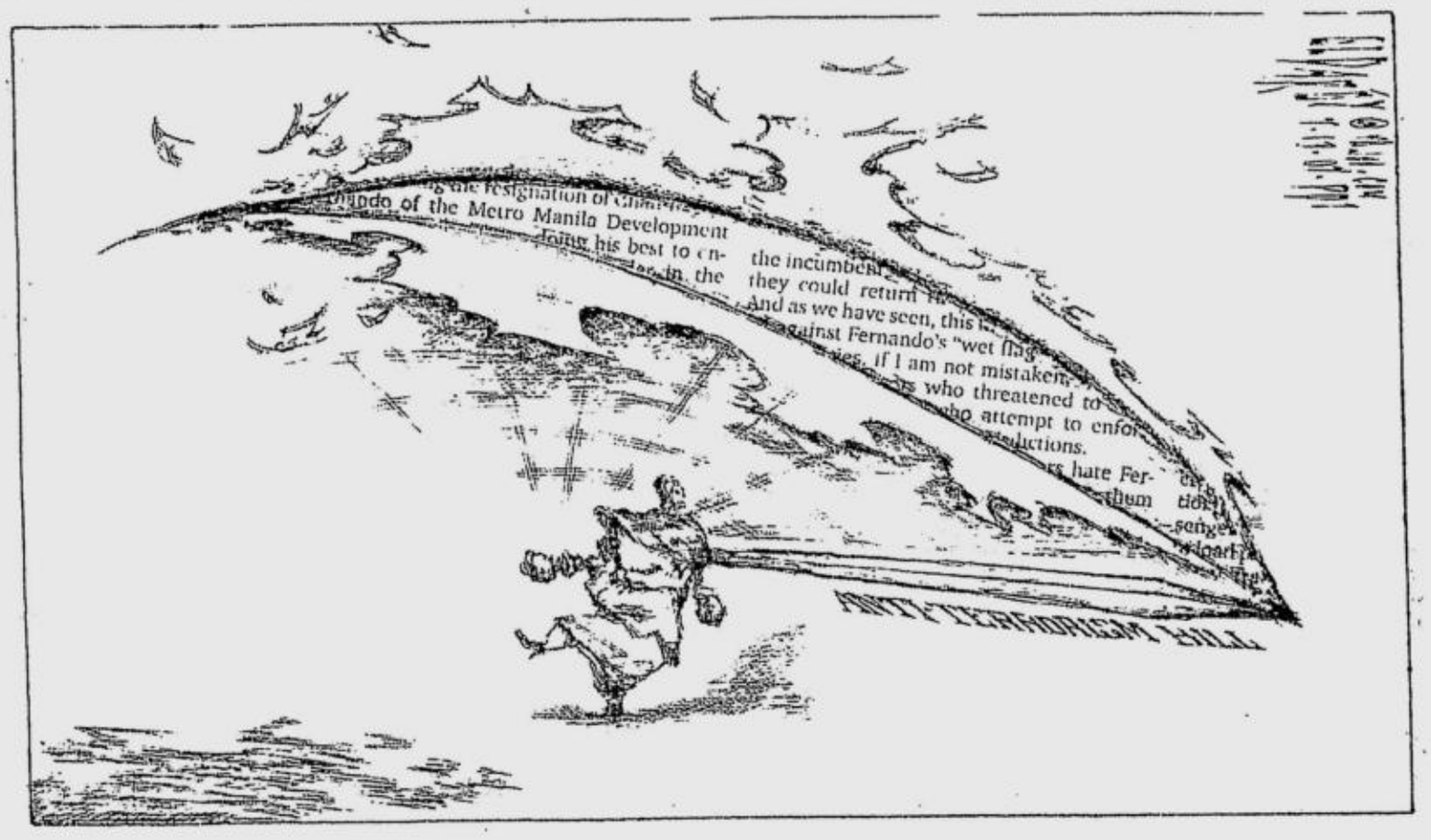
This lack of public support at the local level and the ambiguousness of the "enemy" make it difficult to root out the causes of insurgency, terrorism, even crimes of opportunity like kidnapping. All the more reason to forge a fair deal with the MILF. Those we smoke the peace pipe with have less incentive to lie in ambush, in the pouring rain.

Publisher ISAGANI YAMBOT
Editor in Chief LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC
Managing Editor JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO
Associate Editor ABELARDO S. ULANDAY
Associate Editor for Readership ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO
News Editor ARTEMIO T. ENGRACIA JR. • Chief, News Day Desk NILO B. PAUROM
Opinion Editor JORGE V. ARUTA
National Editor PERGENTINO B. BANDAYREL JR.
Senior Desk Editor JUAN V. SARMIENTO JR.
Editorial Consultant AMANDO DORONILA
Chief Photographer ERNIE U. SARMIENTO
Art & Design Director LYNETT A. VILLARIBA

Board Chairman MARIXI R. PRIETO
President ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing RENATO R. REINOSO
VP for Advertising FELIPE R. OLARTE
AVP for Circulation SANDY SIMON R. YAP

Readers' Advocate LORNA KALAW TIROL
readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph • Tel. No. 897-8808, Loc. 342

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.



'Performance massaging' at LBP, DOF

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

SOMEBODY CALLED MY ATTENTION TO THE full-page ads bought by former Rep. Herminio Teves in defense of his son, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves. It dwelt on the procedure to arrive at the collection target of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and why the sacking of Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag was justified because of his failure to achieve the collection target.

This prompted me to look at the record of the Land Bank of the Philippines when Gary Teves was its head. My purpose was to find out if, during his time, the LBP achieved its revenue and expenditure targets. Lo and behold, I found out that the LBP indeed was always able to balance its budget—but only because of Teves' "performance massaging."

A close examination of his record in the LBP from 2001 to 2004 showed his expertise in manipulating targets versus actual performance. He was LBP president from 2001 to 2005.

• In 2001, the revenue target of the bank was set at P21.499 billion. In the same year, the bank's budgeted expenses were estimated at P17.408 billion. Less provisions for losses and taxes, the bank should have netted P1.5 billion.

The actual figures attained during the year were: total revenues of P19.999 billion (93 percent of target) while actual expenses were down to P13.033 billion (80 percent of the target). This resulted in a bigger net income of P1.508 billion.

That's a commendable performance: although the bank failed to attain its revenue target, it reduced its expenses so it could attain its net income goal.

• Interestingly, in the next three years under Teves' watch, the total income targets of the bank were lowered steadily: in 2002 to P21.250 billion; in 2003 to P19.135 billion; and in 2004 to P20.168 billion. Actual revenues were P17.617 billion in 2002 and P18.529 billion in 2003, both lower than the targets. But in 2004, the target was suddenly surpassed as the bank recorded revenues of P21.398 billion.

On the expenditure side, the targets were also lowered to P16.245 billion in 2002; P15.858 billion in 2003; and P15.968 billion in 2004. The actual expenses remained almost steady at P13.297 billion in 2002 and P13.506 billion in 2003, but suddenly ballooned to P17.349 billion in 2004, exceeding its target for the year (P15.968 billion) by 9 percent.

• Strangely, despite the lowered targets and their non-attainment, the bank always showed an increase in net income. The budgeted net income grew to P1.65 billion in 2002 and actual net income amounted to P1.659 billion, 1 percent more than the target; in 2003, the target was P1.8 billion against P2.001 billion actual net income or 1 percent more; then in 2004, it was P2.15 billion versus P2.25 billion, or 5 percent higher.

• What all those figures mean is that under Teves, the LBP had the habit of hitting the targets (revenues, expenses and incomes) only by reducing them year after year. But what was glaring was the huge increase in expenses in 2004, his last year, from an average of P13.6 billion in 2001 to 2003 to a whopping P17.35 billion in 2004, or a 28 percent increase. Was the booking of some expenses in 2001-2003 purposely delayed to 2004 so that the bank could meet its targets in those bad years?

• Now that Buñag has been replaced at the helm of the BIR, and revenue collection has dropped even further, it was reported that the DOF plans to lower the collection target of the BIR (Teves denied this), something it never did under Buñag even though the DOF assumptions, when it set the targets, turned out to be wrong.

The "tax audit" by the DOF team led by Undersecretary Gil S. Beltran claimed that the BIR missed its collection target by P10 billion in January to May due to "inefficiencies."

With the lowered target, P10 billion is now removed from the collection target of the BIR for the entire year 2007. In effect, the DOF is giving up on the P10 billion uncollected taxes.

A good portion of the uncollected tax was due from the insurance industry. (The audit team culled its figures from financial statements of the insurance companies.) The insurance firms had already booked their taxes due as liabilities although they have not yet remitted the money to the BIR, for the simple reason that the taxes were not yet due. They will remit the tax payments later in 2007.

That is the reason the BIR collection always increases in the second half of the year. The DOF has now removed that P10 billion "uncollected tax due to inefficiency" from the BIR's yearly target. It will now be able to meet its collection target. That's performance massaging.

* * *

Here is another example of performance massaging: In 2006, Teves ordered three government financial institutions (the LBP, Development Bank of the Philippines, and Government Service Insurance System) and a private company (Globe Telecom) to pay their taxes in advance. As a result, the four corporations paid P12 billion in taxes due in 2007 one year earlier.

Teves justifies this by saying that the P12 billion represented only a small portion of the total BIR collection. But that is not the point. The point is the impropriety of the finance secretary making those calls, which could enhance his performance, because of the "massaging" effect on the government's revenue collection.

Also, since the four companies advanced their tax payments, the BIR did not collect them during the first half of 2007. Had it booked the P12 billion in advance payments as collection for 2007, the BIR (under Buñag) would have overshot its target. The DOF claims the BIR missed its target by only P9 billion in January to May.

The party-list conundrum

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

WHEN THE CONSTITUTION RESERVES 20 percent of the House (or 55 seats in the incoming Congress) for party-list groups representing the marginalized and underrepresented, but the law time and again fills only a small fraction of those seats, don't we in fact tamper with a delicate constitutional balance? Are we not in fact effectively disenfranchised? Shouldn't we revisit whatever formula we are using?

Our post-Marcos Constitution engaged in a constitutional experiment. Democracies tend to reward only the best-funded parties, and pushes out smaller groups. Corrective mechanisms were needed. The drafters thus said that, in addition to the congressmen elected traditionally through districts, we will have congressmen elected nontraditionally through the party-list system.

They left the details to Congress, which then gave one seat to each party that gets at least 2 percent of the total votes for party-list groups, and gave additional seats according to an amorphous formula which merely says that those who garner "more than two percent of the votes shall be entitled to additional seats in proportion to their total number of votes." Stated simply, if you get more votes, you get more seats. Finally, Congress fixed a cap of three seats maximum per party.

The Supreme Court has recognized the logic of the 2-percent threshold and the three-seat cap. One, democracy requires that only those with enough votes be heard, and the threshold avoids the "proliferation of small groups which are incapable of contributing significant legislation, and which might even pose a threat to the stability of Congress." (Let's call this the anti-proliferation rationale.) Two, the cap "ensures [that] no single group, no matter how large its membership, would dominate the party-list seats, if not the entire House." (Let's call this the anti-hegemony rationale.)

And the result? In 1998, only 14 party-list seats were filled, 20 in 2001, and 23 in 2004. The Comelec just the other day filled 13 (or possibly 15) party-list seats, a mere .05 percent of Congress and woefully short of the constitutional 20 percent! Sure the Supreme Court has said that it wasn't necessary to fill all the seats and that the 20 percent was merely a "ceiling." But that's because the Court at that time had to strike down a Comelec ruling that took the law into its own hands. Claiming that it was mandatory to fill up all the party-list seats, the Comelec ignored the minimum 2 percent legislated by Congress, and proceeded to swear in even those who didn't meet that threshold!

But it is one thing to say that not all seats have to be filled come what may, yet another to sustain—running now for three electoral exercises already—that the 20 percent reserved by the Constitution is satisfied by a mere .05 percent compliance rate! The delicate constitutional balance between the 80 percent elected traditionally and the 20 percent from the party-list groups has now swung in favor of establishment politics. Thus, Oscar Franklin Tan's "Disenfranchisement by Mathematical Absurdity."

The current party-list law can actually be read to enable sufficiently representative groups (that is to say, those who won 2 percent increments of the vote) to fill more seats. The key words—"additional seats in proportion to their total number of votes"—have been interpreted by the Court to limit the seats for every party ranked below the leader of the pack. In its Veterans Federation decision, the Court argues that if the first placer and some runners-up all end up with three seats just the same, whatever happens to proportionality? Hence the Court's formula that gives the additional seats to the runners-up in relation to the votes of the first-placer. It was a formula that wonderfully reconciled the anti-proliferation with the anti-hegemonic rationales.

But we now have the benefit of history's lessons. The formula's result is that we will always fall terribly short of the Constitution's 20 percent. It is time to return to first principles, and remember why the party-list system was created, namely, as a counter-weight to traditional politics.

We can thus hew more closely to the original words of the party-list law. When the law says "in proportion to their total number votes," all it means is, "more votes, more seats," rather than "in proportion to the votes of the highest ranking party." Moreover, we must separate the two rationales: the anti-proliferation and the anti-hegemonic. Once the 2-percent threshold is met and the requisite increments add up, the anti-proliferation rationale is already met. The three-seat "ceiling" is a new and entirely different ball game, for an entirely different reason. Any ceiling will create a disproportion—because it simply stops at the third seat and completely ignores the fourth, fifth, sixth, etc. seat that the winner could have claimed based on the principle "more votes, more seats." Congress provided for proportionality; it can carve out exceptions as well.

There are fine proposals to reform the party-list system, including the Tan formula that proposes a "straight-line" proportionality based on votes garnered and that will fill the Constitution's reserved seats.

I remember the felicitous call of UP's Math Society many years back: "MATHirang MATHibay." I have always suspected that Filipinos are Social Darwinists—thus perhaps our fascination for politics, a game hardwired for the reign of bullies and hegemonds. We cheer the survivors merely for surviving, and ask not "how" or "why" they endured. Yet, as the competing party-list formulas show, "We, the People" define what it means to survive in Philippine politics, and it is we who determine who wins and who loses.

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

Challenges facing Teodoro

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE PHILIPPINES HAS HAD AS MANY CIVILians (12 in all) as military men among its 24 defense chiefs since it became an independent democratic republic in 1946. This 50-50 ratio is not a revealing measure at all of whether the concept of civilian supremacy over the military in Philippine democracy is working.

By next month, former Rep. Gilberto Teodoro of Tarlac, takes office as defense secretary, after serving out three consecutive terms in the House of Representatives. He takes over from Hermogenes Ebdane, a dyed-in-the-wool military man, who once headed the Philippine National Police and was among those who joined then Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes in withdrawing military support from the government of President Joseph Estrada in January 2001. Ebdane, a core loyalist to President Macapagal-Arroyo, has been shuffled back as secretary of public works in the first Cabinet-level revamp following the disastrous defeat of the Arroyo administration in the May 2007 Senate election.

Teodoro becomes another civilian defense chief following the resignation of Avelino Cruz Jr., a lawyer in the Villaraza law firm and erstwhile political ally of the President. His appointment follows a key recommendation of the Feliciano Commission, which held an inquiry into the causes of the 2003 Oakwood mutiny led by a cabal of young officers. The Feliciano Commission reiterated the recommendation of the Davide Commission, which conducted an inquiry into 1986-89 coups during the Aquino presidency, to appoint a civilian as secretary of national defense. It said, "Beyond the need to institutionalize the supremacy of civilian authority over the military, the appointment of persons who have not had long and deep ties to the military, and who have not held positions in the military establishment that itself needs to be reformed, is essential if a reform program is to succeed." Although military officers acquire civilian status upon retirement, the Feliciano report said, "they are likely to bring the rigidity of hierarchy, seniority, camaraderie and other aspects of military culture into the office of the DND that would obstruct reform."

Teodoro's appointment has been received with approval by a broad sector not only because it sustains the principle of civilian supremacy over the military but also because of his legislative experience, his credentials as lawyer (and a bar topnotcher) and his relative youth.

There is another significant aspect in his appointment. He is known to be a protégé of his uncle, Eduardo Cojuangco Jr., founder of the Nationalist People's Coalition, a key ally of the President and component of the Lakas-CMD dominated majority coalition in the House. In the May 2007 election, the NPC retained its bloc of 27 seats in the House, against the 90 held by Lakas and 47 by the President's Kampi party.

Teodoro's appointment to the defense department cannot simply be seen as the resealing of the President's alliance with Cojuangco's NPC or as a political reward for his support during earlier attempts to impeach her. The appointment represents a departure from the pattern of Cabinet appointments of the Arroyo administration as well as that of previous administrations in the post-Edsa period from 1986. During that period, most Cabinet appointments came from mainly bureaucratic and technocratic sectors, none of whom represented political constituencies based on regional bailiwicks. Teodoro's appointment marks the return of a Cabinet recruitment that draws on a political base made up of the NPC's constituency.

This factor gives Teodoro a platform to exercise autonomy instead of acting like a rubber stamp of the President. From this perspective, his appoint should be welcomed for its potential in initiating not only reforms in the military establishment but more so in asserting civilian control over the military that has become a hotbed of coup attempts and politicized military interventionists in politics.

As a man of the law and as a political creature of representative democracy, Teodoro brings with him into the defense department the kind of political culture needed to curb the rise of military assertiveness in the execution of President Arroyo's total war which seeks to crush the communist insurgency by the end of her term in 2010. Teodoro enters the defense department at a critical juncture when he is expected to play a critical role in implementing the Human Security Act that takes effect on July 15. The issue that faces Teodoro is whether he would use the defense department as a counterfoil to the hard-liners in both the Cabinet and the military, who are eager to use this piece of legislation to crack down on Left-wing activists operating inside the legal system. Will Teodoro be their compliant tool or will he make a difference in curbing the repressive tendencies of the ultra-Right forces in the Cabinet and the military establishment?

Even before the formation of the Antiterror Council that is mandated to implement the Antiterrorist Act, two anticommunist hard-liners—Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita (a former martial law general) and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez—have already preempted it by calling on the courts to outlaw the Communist Party of the Philippines, the New People's Army, and the Abu Sayyaf. Their call came even before Teodoro could take office in August. The hard-liners' call seeks to turn back the clock to 1992, when the 1957 Anti-Subversion Act was repealed, legalizing the communist movement.

Will Teodoro make the defense department an instrument to enhance control of civil authority over wayward generals blamed for the wave of extrajudicial executions of political activists? Much is expected of him.

Crossing borders

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

FOR MANY YEARS NOW, I HAVE BEEN HEARING FILIPINOS joking about the need to grow a moustache or beard before going off to work in the Middle East because, they claim, without the facial hair, a man becomes too "feminine" and, by extension, attractive prey for men looking for male sexual partners.

Nadya Labi, writing in the May 2007 issue of the American magazine, The Atlantic, describes how amid the extreme sexual repression in Saudi Arabia, there's actually a frenzy of homosexual activity. One reason is that access to women is so restricted, and so the men turn to each other. Many of the men do not think of themselves as homosexual, and rationalize that they are going after men who look like women.

Appropriately, Labi's article is entitled "The Kingdom in the Closet," to highlight the many paradoxes surrounding homosexuality in Saudi Arabia. Men openly look for other men in shopping malls, and through the Internet, yet they are always in danger of being arrested by the *mutawwa'in*, the religious police fielded by the Committee on the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice.

Don't ask, don't tell

Labi describes the atmosphere in Saudi as one of "don't ask, don't tell," the phrase originally used to describe the US policy about homosexuals in the military. Officially, homosexuals were barred from the US military, but everyone knew they were there, and as long as they kept quiet, they wouldn't be expelled. In Saudi, it's an entire nation that works on a "don't ask, don't tell" policy, keeping all its homosexuals in the closet.

Now comes the Filipino OFW. I once attended a *despedida* for a very flamboyant Filipino *bakla* who was leaving to work in Saudi and remember how his aunt sternly reminded him "to behave," with the threat: "*Sa* Saudi, *pinupugutan ang ulo ng mga bakla* (In Saudi, they behead homosexuals)." Several months later I asked how "Jun" (not his real name) was and his relatives showed me pictures of him in drag (dressed as a woman) in Saudi. He was apparently having the time of his life, with claims that Saudi men were queuing for him ("*pila-pila sila*").

I thought of Jun reading The Atlantic article, especially because it had a photograph of someone with long flowing hair, a crown and a bouquet of flowers. The caption read: "Francis, in drag, the winner of a private beauty pageant held by Filipinos in Jeddah." Such beauty pageants are common, but not without risks. There have been raids and arrests and if participants are caught having sex, they could be liable for very severe punishments. Saudi law actually prescribes death for sodomy or anal intercourse.

Perhaps the out and out Filipino *baklas* are lucky in that they know how to skirt the rules. The Philippines isn't exactly that liberal so life here gives sufficient practice for the *bakla* when in comes to a life of happy subterfuge.

Labi mentions Filipinos several times, including one hilarious story about how 23 of them were arrested while holding a drag beauty pageant. They were dragged (pardon the pun) to the police station together with the evidence of their crime: wigs and makeup and photographs. Herded into a cell, the drag queens began to argue among themselves about who looked "the hottest" in the photographs.

Then there was Jamie who grew his hair long and kept it under a baseball cap, but still ended up arrested by the religious police who saw the long hair as "proof" that he was homosexual. At the police station, the police challenged Jamie to prove he was not homosexual—by walking. Jamie apparently flunked the test but he was lucky: his employer came to his rescue. He has since cut his hair. And maybe grown a beard.

The ones who face greater perils are the non-*bakla* Filipinos, especially if their physique leans toward what might be perceived as "feminine": slimness, a beardless face, maybe a bit too light-footed when walking. If they do get seduced or propositioned, they might not know how to respond. Just a few weeks ago, a Filipino OFW was beheaded in Saudi. His crime? He had killed a Pakistani taxi driver who tried to sexually assault him.

Illegitimate

OFWs need to be prepared for other forms of sexual repression. Filipina nurses learn to practice their profession wearing an hijab or veil, or even the burqa, which shields the body from head to toe. They learn to avoid looking straight at a man, because that could be misinterpreted as seduction. Those working as domestic helpers are vulnerable to sexual harassment, and even if the sex is forced on them by the employer, they can still be accused of adultery or fornication. Again, every move is suspect: one Filipina told me how, working in a home, she had once come out from the bathroom with her hair wet, and this was interpreted by her male employer as a "signal" that she was available, i.e., her wet hair indicating she had bathed and was ready.

Woe to the Filipina who has children out of wedlock, since the baby can be used as evidence of sexual misbehavior. Fortunately, the authorities in the Middle Eastern countries seem to have become lax on this point; usually they just deport the women back to the Philippines, together with their babies. Literally hundreds of such illegitimate children have been deported back to the Philippines together with their mothers.

And they're the lucky ones, considering that adultery is punishable by death.

Solutions? I'll admit I'm at a loss here except to say the pre-departure orientation seminars given by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) should emphasize discussions of differences in sexual norms across the world, and the consequences of breaking the rules.

Perhaps OFWs can be taught some strategies for dealing with sexual harassment, maybe even invoking religious conservatism to defend themselves. They can tell the seducer that their behavior is "*haram*" (forbidden) and that they will be reported to the religious police.

I know though that's easier said than done since many OFWs are not in the position to defend themselves.

We also need to consider the broader context of OFW sexuality. One of my colleagues, Dr. Sol Dalisay, is involved in a Southeast Asian research study of "cross-border sexuality" and finds that the overseas escapades of Filipinos aren't a simple matter of libido. The Filipino is so used to having large groups of friends here at home. When they leave to work overseas, they suddenly find themselves isolated. Incurable romantics, the Filipino will fall in love easily, with fellow Filipinos, with people from their host country, or other expatriates. Sex will often come into the picture. Many will be able to deal comfortably with the cross-cultural divide when it comes to sex, but others may have to pay for their attraction—not fatally, we all hope.

Living with a 'silent killer'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

LIKE PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS, PEOPLE living with diabetes must come to terms with the realization that they are living with a disease that has no cure. Before anti-retroviral drugs became more accessible worldwide, a positive finding of HIV infection in the developing world more often than not spelled impending death for the person, who had at the most a decade to live before succumbing to any of the infections which were apt to attack anyone with a "compromised" immune system.

Diabetes kills more slowly, and without proper management, kills just as inexorably. At a press conference this week, Dr. Tommy S. Ty Willing, chair and president of the Philippine Diabetes Association, said diabetes is responsible for just as many deaths as HIV/AIDS worldwide, most commonly through cardiovascular disease (which afflicts 75 percent of diabetics), kidney disease and infections. At the same time, diabetes also has a major impact on a person's "quality of life," since it may lead to complications like blindness, nerve damage and amputations. "One person dies because of diabetes every 10 seconds," Willing asserted, quoting experts who say that by 2025, the number of people diagnosed with diabetes will have doubled, with the Asia-Pacific region accounting for the most number of cases.

Diabetes has one other similarity with HIV/AIDS: it hits the poor hardest. "Fifty percent of people with diabetes do not know they have the disease," noted Willing, and while there are medications that make it possible for patients to manage the disease (along with lifestyle changes like diet and exercise), the drugs which need to be taken daily and for a lifetime are likely beyond the reach of the poor.

(As an aside, health insurance providers, I have found out, will not cover "maintenance" medicine costs, even if these prevent development of more serious complications that will require much more expensive medications as well as procedures.)

* * *

GIVEN the global spread and impact of diabetes, the International Diabetes Foundation successfully lobbied last year with the United Nations to proclaim "World Diabetes Day," to be observed every year on Nov. 14, to raise awareness about the disease, as well as increase public knowledge on diabetes and its complications, prevention and care.

Locally, four organizations—the PDA, the Philippine Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism, the Institute for Studies on Diabetes Foundation and the Diabetes Center Philippines—have joined forces to launch the "Unite for Diabetes" campaign. Highlight of the campaign is a two-day convention which is aimed at informing a "lay" audience about the diagnosis, management and care of people living with the disease.

At the press conference, Willing expressed frustration that while HIV/AIDS has received far more fevered and frequent media coverage, the media have paid very little attention to diabetes. "Maybe it's because diabetes is not sensational," he speculated. Indeed, diabetes has been described as a "silent killer" whose cumulative effects are manifested after some decades.

The good news for diabetics, however, is that, unlike people living with HIV/AIDS, they need not deal with any public stigma. Unlike PWHAs who must endure being judged on their sexuality, behavior and even morality, diabetics can move about "under the radar," as it were. But that doesn't mean they are unaffected by an initial diagnosis of diabetes, or that they will remain free of doubts and fears as they live with the disease.

* * *

A MOST fascinating, and paradoxically entertaining, portion of the press conference was a talk by Dr. Eduardo Juan Tolentino, a psychiatrist, one of only 420 in the country, he noted, who spoke on "The Emotional Journey of the Diabetic Patient."

People living with diabetes also go through the stages of grief, death and dying, said Tolentino, making the journey from diagnosis to denial, anger/fear, confusion and eventually acceptance, with many instances of backsliding and doubt. A large part of a patient's arrival at "acceptance," said Tolentino, was his or her relationship with the doctor, with the ideal relationship described as one between two adults who respect each other's experience and are respectful of each other's needs.

It's important for the diabetes doctor, said Tolentino, to realize that a diet, exercise and medication regime will work only if it fits the patient's personality, inclinations and lifestyle. The patient has to first accept that he/she is living with a chronic and potentially debilitating disease, and then realize that first "he/she is not alone (the disease is common, increasingly so), that there are lifestyle changes he/she can adopt, and that there are medications that can help manage the disease."

To help doctors come to a better understanding of the psychological and emotional impact that a diabetes diagnosis can have, the PDA (with pharmaceutical firm GSK) is launching "Designs on Diabetes," an art competition for Filipino doctors treating type 2 diabetes patients. (You can download entry forms from www.diabetesphil.org)

* * *

AT THIS point, it may be apropos for me to admit that I am diabetic, along with my husband. After telling him about Dr. Tolentino's talk on the "stages" diabetics go through on the way to acceptance, I asked my husband what stage he thought I was in. "You're still in denial," he chided, since, apart from taking my medications regularly, I have shown little inclination to adopt any other changes in my life.

He may well be right, so I may not have much authority on this matter. Then again, diabetic readers will know that I will be with them on this journey of living with diabetes and struggling to live a better life despite it.

Feng shui

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

FENG SHUI EXPERTS ARE OF THE OPINION that to attract luck, people must have clear, unblemished faces and that hair should always be drawn away from the face for best results. Upon hearing this, some of my friends thought aloud, why doesn't the President, like Enrique Iglesias, have the mole on her face removed? When I replied that the "Nora Aunor mole" was her distinguishing physical feature, another commented that the real Nora Aunor was the best example of luck thrown to the winds. When I asked, "why the concern over the President's mole?" The feng shui pack replied in unison, "because the President's luck or lack of it is intertwined with that of the nation by extension to all of us." Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's mole, according to my feng shui-inclined friends, is a matter of national importance.

I never thought much about feng shui until we moved to a pre-owned Makati house two decades ago. It was a wonderfully designed old house in a posh enclave and I was surprised by my mother's three instant renovations: First, she cut down a very old and impressive weeping willow on the driveway because it was considered "*malas*." Second, she tore out an interior garden at the heart of the house because this would lead to our parents' separation, and when we scoffed at this, she said that two previous homeowners had presided over broken homes. Third and most drastic, she had the pool changed because it was kidney-shaped and she claimed she did not want to die of kidney failure. Renovations like these will drive architects, engineers and interior decorators up the wall, but then that is what certain clients will ask for. Who doesn't want to have long life, luck and prosperity?

During the Marcos years, we saw how the number 7 was part of their lives. The plate number with a triple 7 used to be exclusive to Imelda Marcos, and was considered more desirable than the triple 8 considered lucky by Chinese.

I don't know if our Land Transportation Office cashes in, as they do in Hong Kong, on car plates that are considered auspicious. In Hong Kong, they auction off plates with particular numbers thus generating extra revenue. In the Philippines, people will want any triple number except 6 because 666 is biblically considered "the number of the beast." Some people will probably take consecutive sets like 123, 456, or 789 and perhaps other combinations that are lucky or at least easy to spot and remember. The same can be said of the letters on car plates that are either identical triple letters, letters that correspond to the car-owners initials or letters that form words like PAN, NAP, CAT, ASS or SAD.

Some people say that feng shui should also be considered on national symbols. Few people remember the controversy that surrounded the launch of the Philippine Airlines logo which carried a sunburst that was designed to indicate a sunrise. But some said that when that logo was emblazoned on the tail of the plane, it actually represented an unlucky sunset.

Some people think national symbols like our currency should contain lucky elements that seem to obscure the history that is recorded in our coins and bank notes. Don't you wonder how the design of Philippine currency came about? How the now familiar faces on various denominations were picked? Jose Rizal, the National Hero, is on the one-peso coin not because he is less worthy than Sergio Osmeña who is on the higher denomination P50 bill, or Ninoy Aquino who is on the P500 bill. Rizal is on the peso coin because it is the basic unit of Philippine currency. So there is some hidden order here.

The P100 bill was debated on because of the way in which the Philippine and American flags are interpreted, but nothing beats the great scrutiny that has been given the P500 bill, which has a number of design elements that may be lucky or unlucky depending on the person doing feng shui. Few people know that there is a "Pangitiin si Ninoy Movement" whose members claim that the reason our economy is so bad is that our modern hero, Ninoy Aquino, does not smile on the bank note.

If we are to go by the records of the Central Bank, the P500 bill was first issued during the Aquino administration, hence the predominant color yellow and that photograph of Ninoy, a personal favorite of then President Corazon Aquino. The argument is that if Ninoy smiles the money will smile too, but then if you take your bank notes out of your wallet none of our presidents smiles. The only smiling face we have on bank notes is Josefa Llanes Escoda who is on the P1,000 bank note.

What makes this again more than a historiographical issue was a recent move to change the present P20 bill into a P20 coin. The historical figure on this denomination, Commonwealth President Manuel L. Quezon, would not be changed. When the family of the late president was consulted, they suggested using an image of Quezon taken when he was older, wiser and looked every inch a statesman. When I saw the proposed change, I remarked that Quezon looked, as he really was, tubercular. I suggested that if a change was to be made, a youthful Quezon should be depicted rather than a tired old one.

Shouldn't historical figures, it was argued, be better remembered at the height of their lives rather than in the twilight? Here again we have a question not of history but of popular memory, aesthetics and feng shui.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

GMA's war threatens lumad

WHEN THE ARROYO ADMINISTRATION labeled Human Rights Watch's report "Scared Silent Impunity for Extrajudicial Killings in the Philippines" as biased, we were not surprised. The government has been good at this all this time—describing as liars and unfair those who speak against its lies about the political killings, lies concocted in the Task Force Usig investigation which only unmasked the fascist face of the Arroyo administration.

The administration's reaction to the report only further alienated Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo from the Filipino people and the international community, both of whom are seeking an end to the political killings and the culture of impunity that have swept this country since she assumed the presidency.

Of the 858 victims of political killings under Ms Arroyo's watch, 85 belonged to indigenous communities. This figure includes only the documented deaths. But we are also seeking justice for those whose deaths remain unknown, whose deaths never got reported in the lowland communities, but continue to haunt us nevertheless. This figure, in fact, does not make a full measure of the viciousness of the ruling regime and its military forces.

The experience of the lumad in Mindanao alone already presents a grim picture of ruthlessness. For instance, when the Alamara Paramilitary Group, led by two regular soldiers from the 73rd Infantry Battalion, strafed on Feb. 18, 2006 the children's community school in Sitio Nabunturan, Kalagangan near the Davao del Norte-Bukidnon boundary, 28 children were injured, 18 adults and a lumad teacher were killed, while another teacher was seriously wounded.

Under the Arroyo regime's all-out war policy, the indigenous communities are the ones that suffer death and displacement; it is their survival as a people that is being threatened.

And so it is our duty to stand by the Human Rights Watch report and by Karapatan's report, as well as by all testimony of the victims' relatives.

Driven by our love and dedication to truth and justice, we reiterate the call for a stronger world alliance against the extrajudicial killings in the Philippines.

The indigenous peoples' hopes remain strong that justice will be served, if not now, then in the near future when genuine peace shall have been restored.

For now, the overwhelming support from peace advocates and civil libertarian groups in the country and in the international community dignifies our cries for justice, never mind the cowardly denials from the government and the military.

—DATU MONICO CAYOG,
Pasaka, Confederation of Lumad Organizations in Southern Mindanao, c/o Diakonia Center, IFI Compound, F. Torres Street, Davao City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Inspiring celebration

IT WAS ABOUT TIME. THE FAthers of successful military men, of the lower-ranked soldiers themselves, were recognized during the Father's Day celebration at the Philippine Air Force's Airmen's Bar last June 17.

It must have been a very touching celebration with generals, like Lt. Gen. Horacio Tolentino, the Philippine Air Force chief, leading the significant occasion. Most of those who attended the celebration were enlisted personnel, mutually proud of each other's accomplishments as father and son; together they had their shining moments.

The sacrifices of their fathers bore fruit. These enlisted personnel worked doubly hard to give their families a better life, a good education, and most of all, priceless values that made them into what they are today—leaders and achievers for the country and people.

The Father's Day celebration for the uniformed men will in many ways inspire the young; it proved that there is true dignity and honor in the profession of arms.

—MARIBETH B. YCO,
Cabuyao, Laguna

Don't fail the people, GO winners told

WE ARE ALARMED AT THE WAY the fight for the Senate presidency is developing. The 14th Congress has not yet opened but already we are seeing the people's mandate for an opposition-dominated Senate being squandered.

We view this with grave concern. Because of a factious opposition bloc, the administration bloc will ultimately determine the outcome of the Senate presidency. And the next Senate president will inevitably be allied, if not beholden, to the administration.

We, therefore, urge the opposition senators—if not the whole bloc, then at least those who won under the Genuine Opposition ticket—to hold a caucus and decide exclusively among themselves who the next Senate president will be. We call on each and every one of them to rise above personal ambitions and loyalties for the higher interest of the people who, in the last elections, have pinned their hopes and aspirations on them.

The worst thing that could happen is for the opposition which won, with an overwhelming mandate, the majority of the 12 Senate seats contested, to end up as the minority in the 14th Congress.

To them we say: We were one with you when you fought the good fight and celebrated a well-deserved victory. We pray that you will not fail us on this very important issue.

—VICENTE R. ROMANO III,
lead convenor,
Black & White Movement

Senior citizen's 20% discount: Are there other requirements?

I'M A SENIOR CITIZEN WITH local ID No. 4317, signed by the city mayor and the chair of the Office of the Senior Citizens Affairs of Malaybalay City. I wish to be clarified on the guidelines the INQUIRER enumerated in its July 5 issue, regarding senior citizens' benefits, particularly the 20-percent discount on medicine purchases in all drug stores.

On July 6, I purchased maintenance medicines for my "high blood" at Mercury Drug in Robinsons Mall, Malate, Manila. The sales clerk politely turned down my request for a discount, telling me the senior ID card I presented to her was not enough. She said it should be accompanied by a doctor's prescription and senior citizen's purchase card for medicines as required by Mercury Drug in Malaybalay and Cagayan de Oro.

May I be clarified on this requirement by the Mercury Drug management. The INQUIRER reported that for one to avail himself of the 20-percent discount, he only has to present his senior citizen's ID issued by the city mayor or the barangay captain of his place of residence, a passport or other pertinent documents.

Are the requirements of Mercury Drug in accordance with law?

—RUBEN BARROSO,
senior citizen, ID No. 4317

Protestants strayed on Jalosjos case

MALACAÑANG ANNOUNCED that it would commute the two life terms of former Zamboanga Rep. Romeo Jalosjos, who was convicted of raping an 11-year-old girl, 10 years ago, to a jail term of 16 years, three months and three days.

Protestant church leaders opposed President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision, according to National Council for Churches secretary Sharon Rose Joy Duremdes. (INQUIRER, 6/19/07)

There is nothing to protest. The plan of President Arroyo to commute the prison terms of Jalosjos is justified under Sec. 19, Article VII of the Constitution.

The church leaders should bear in mind that there is a separation of Church and State under Sec. 6, Article II of the Constitution.

—ELIGIO M. PASTORIN,
Rositaville Subd.,
Concepcion I, Marikina City

Barangay polls to be postponed—again?

I AM A RESIDENT OF BARANGAY Basak, Cebu City. I consider myself among the silent majority.

I read a news report that Rep. Eduardo Gullas has filed a bill to postpone the barangay elections to October next year. He gave as reason the expenses such an exercise will entail.

If approved, this proposal will certainly deprive the silent majority of the right to choose their barangay leaders and representatives. And this is not the first time barangay elections will be postponed.

I hope congressmen will not allow the bill to pass into law.

—JOSEPH M. SORIANO,
N. Bacalso Avenue, Cebu City

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project as stated below:

Item / Description	Approved Budget	Source of Funds
1 Lot Hiring of Consultant for the Conversion of the Existing Internal Audit Process to Risk-Based Audit Approach	P3,500,000.00	LBP Funds

Interested consultants must submit their LOIs and secure the Eligibility Documents, upon payment of a Non-Refundable Fee of P 500.00, on or before July 24, 2007. The deadline for the submission of Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents on July 25, 2007, 1:00 PM at Procurement Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, 1598 M.H. Del Pilar Street, Malate, Manila.

LANDBANK shall determine the eligibility of interested consultants in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) and other Government Rules and Regulations. Other eligibility requirements are the following:

a. Must have at least two (2) years experience in handling consulting services on risk-based audit approach
b. Must have completed or currently handling at least one (1) project comparable to the proposed engagement
c. All members of the proposed Project Engagement Team (PET) must have at least two (2) years experience in risk-based auditing

The shortlist of prospective bidders shall consist of not more than five (5) consultants. The criteria and rating system for shortlisting shall consider the experience and track record of the consultants. Only those who are eligible and included in the shortlist shall be allowed to secure the Bid Documents, upon payment of a Non-Refundable Fee of P1,800.00, and submit bids. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184. The Quality Based Evaluation/Selection (QBE/QBS) procedures shall be used in the evaluation of bids. The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Bid Documents.

LANDBANK reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s).

(PDI - July 13, 2007) BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
BANK OF CHINA - LIMITED 36/F Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Yong Luo	Deputy Manager
BANK OF CHINA - LIMITED 36/F Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Xiaoxia Dong	Deputy Manager
H. DAYA INTERNATIONAL (PHIL.) INC. Visita Bldg., 146 Yakal St., Makati City	George Jashuagnana Ranjan Tanuku	President
H. DAYA INTERNATIONAL (PHIL.) INC. Visita Bldg., 146 Yakal St., Makati City	Nitin Gajanan Gardi	Treasurer
K-Y & H INC. 2202 Alen Condo., 92 Gil Puyat Ave.,Pasay City	Man Young Bang	Inventory Manager
JANU LENDING INVESTOR CO. 512 Ruby Ville Subd., Brgy. Baesa, Caloocan City	Parmjit Kaur	Marketing Manager
SUNNY PHIL-KOR CORP. 19 S. Guzman St., San Juan City	Seung Min Oh (w/o Koh)	Asst. General Manager
UBI-QUITOUS CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT, INC. 677 Boni Ave cor. Aliw St., Plainview, Mandaluyong City	Kiwha Han	Sales Assistant Manager
PEPSICO, INC. - PHILIPPINE BRANCH OFFICE 21/F LKG Tower, 6801 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Trang Cong Hoang	Chief Financial Officer
NIPPON HOSO KYOKAI (JAPAN BROADCASTING CORP.) Rm. 517 Manila Diamond Hotel, Roxas Blvd. cor. Dr. J. Quintos St., Malate, Manila	Naoko Nishiumi	Bureau Chief
PHILKOROAD CORPORATION 2/F Villa Bldg., 78 Makati Ave. cor. Jupiter St., Makati City	Dongsung Seo	Management Staff
BLUESQUARE INC. Unit 3006, 30/F Jollibee Plaza, Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Jeong Hwan Choi	Marketing Manager
BRILLIANT IMAGE, INC. 800 Lauan St. cor. Molave Octagon Estate Subd., dela Paz, Pasig City	Zhengan Chen	Operator/Technician

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

ISABEL G. PANGANIBAN-ORTIGUERRA
Acting Regional Director

The DOLE conducts free seminar on Labor-Human Relations and Productivity. For more information, please call 338-2013 & 303-8920.

(PDI–July 13, 2007)

WESTERN VISAYAS MEDICAL CENTER
Mandurriao, Iloilo City
Fax No. 321-17-97
E-mail Address: wvmc@pldtdsl.net

Project Reference Number: DM 2007-02

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Health (DOH) - Western Visayas Medical Center (WVMC) through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project: Supply and delivery of Various Pharmaceuticals
Location: Western Visayas Medical Center
Brief Description: The Bidder shall provide the supply and delivery of Various Pharmaceuticals
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC): Php 42,974,443.40
Contract Duration: One (1) year
Delivery Period: Within fifteen days after receipt of each Purchase Order

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	July 24, 2007 to July 31, 2007
Time and Place of Pre-bid Conference	9:00 A.M., O.B. Conference Rm. WVMC, Iloilo City
2. Pre-bid Conference	August 01, 2007
3. Submission of Letters of Intent and Application for Eligibility (If single-stage bidding is used, delete this activity)	N/A
4. Opening of Bids	August 17, 2007
Time and Place of Opening of Bids	9:00 A.M., O.B conference Rm., WVMC, Iloilo City
5. Bid Evaluation	August 17 - 24, 2007
6. Post-qualification	August 27 - 31, 2007
7. Notice of Award	September 07, 2007

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 3,000.00 to the DOH - Western Visayas Medical Center cashier.

The DOH - Western Visayas Medical Center assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved
(Sgd.) FREIDA G. SORONGON, RN, MAN
BAC - CHAIRMAN

(PDI—July 13, 2007)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral Ng Pilipinas (BSP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Item No.	Name of Project/Brief Description	Approved Budget for the Contract
1	One (1) Lot Supply, delivery, installation, testing and commissioning of two (2) units brand new 80 TR Air-Cooled Water Chiller, per BSP specification and scope of work, to the BSP Cebu Regional Office	P9,000,000.00
2	One (1) lot Supply, delivery, installation, testing and commissioning of two (2) units brand new 200 tons Packaged Water Chiller (Air Cooled) with complete accessories, per BSP specifications and scope of work, to the BSP Davao Regional Office	16,180,000.00

Completion Period:
Item 1 - Within one hundred fifty (150) calendar days after receipt of Purchase Order
Item 2 - Within two hundred (200) calendar days after receipt of Purchase Order

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar requirement awarded and completed within the last five (5) years (Y2002 to present) amounting to at least 50% of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of the item to be bid. If bidding for both, the prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar requirement awarded and completed within the said period amounting to at least 50% of the item with the higher ABC. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. No, 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Starting 13 July 2007
2. Site Inspection	BSP Cebu Regional Office - 19 July 2007 BSP Davao Regional Office - 24 July 2007
3. Pre-bid Conference	27 July 2007, 2:00 p.m.
4. Opening of Bids	14 August 2007, 2:00 p.m.
5. Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003.
6. Post-qualification	
7. Notice of Award	

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P4,500.00 (item 1) and P8,100.00 (item 2) to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.
Chairman

(PDI - July 13, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Ave., Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
E-mail: member_relations@sss.gov.ph • Website: http://www.sss.gov.ph

INVITATION TO BID

The Social Security System is inviting offers to purchase by way of sealed bids the following properties, on August 9, 2007 at 2:00 P.M. at the Asset Management Department, 5th Floor, SSS Bldg., East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City:

Item No.	Location/Description	TCT No.	Lot Area	Minimum Bid Price
1	LAS PIÑAS, BF Vista Grande Talon Dos, Residential Lots	T-103154	318 sqm	P 1,654,000.00
		T-103155	185 sqm	P 925,000.00
		T-103156	349 sqm	P 1,815,000.00
		T-103157	218 sqm	P 1,090,000.00
		T-103153	223 sqm	P 1,115,000.00
2	CAVITE, Sherwood Hills Subd., Lallana, Trece Martirez, Residential Lots	T-71766	600 sqm	P 2,100,000.00
		T-71767	762 sqm	P 2,667,000.00
		T-71768	537 sqm	P 1,879,500.00
		T-71769	584 sqm	P 1,752,000.00
		T-71770	509 sqm	P 1,525,500.00
3	BATANGAS, Brgy. San Fernando, Malvar, Residential Lot	T-114794	3,753 sqm	P 6,755,400.00

General Guidelines:

1. Disposal of properties is on "As Is Where Is" basis. Interested bidders are enjoined to personally inspect the property.
2. Bid proposal may be in cash or installment for a period of five (5) years at 13% interest per annum. Bidders shall submit proof of income if proposal is on installment basis.
3. Bid proposal must be accompanied by bidder's deposit equivalent to 20% of the bid price in Cash or in Manager's check in favor of the Social Security System. It must be placed in a sealed envelope with the label Acquired Assets Disposal Committee, Social Security System, East Avenue Diliman, Quezon City signed by the bidder across the flap.
4. SSS reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or to waive any defect found therein. All awards shall be subject to the approval of the Social Security Commission whose decision shall be final and binding on all concerned.

Bid Forms and Instruction to Bidders are available at the Asset Management Department. For other information please contact the Project Manager, Mr. Edgar Sandalo, at Tel.# 435-98-75; 435-9877 or 920-64-01 local 5180.

(Sgd.) MARIANO PABLO S. TOLENTINO
Chairman
Acquired Assets Disposal Committee

(PDI – July 13, 2007)

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
2nd Floor, Los Baños Bldg.
Cor. Peñaranda and Aguinaldo Sts.
Legazpi City
Telefax No. (052) 480-4182
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

Website: www.inquirer.net/regions

Across the NATION

Text us your feedback: inquirer atn name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

Comelec ends 20-year rule of Valeras in Abra

By Frank Cimatu and Estanislao Caldez
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—THE 20-YEAR dominance of the Valera family in Abra politics ended when the Commission on Elections denied the pre-proclamation petition filed by former Gov. Vicente Valera against former Lagayan Mayor Cecilia Luna, his rival in the province's lone congressional race.

Luna was proclaimed winner on Wednesday at the Comelec office in Manila.

The Comelec denied for lack of merit Valera's petition to declare as illegal the action of the provincial board of canvassers in Abra and to correct errors in election documents from Bangued and Manabo towns.

The resolution was signed by presiding Commissioner Florentino Tuason Jr. and Commissioners Rene Sarmiento and Nicodemo Ferrer.

"I [am] elated. I was finally redeemed. Now I can go back to business," Luna told the INQUIRER in a phone interview on Thursday.

Valera's case against Luna was among the remaining pre-proclamation petitions that the Comelec had tackled almost two months after the May 14 elections.

Changing of the guard

The July 9 resolution, however, doomed Valera's case.

"A changing of the guard is due in the far-off province of Abra," said the resolution. It said Valera's proper remedy was "really an election protest and not a pre-proclamation controversy or an appeal ... or even a petition for correction of errors."

Luna, in the latest Comelec tally, garnered 34,103 votes while Valera received 33,493 votes, or a margin of 610 votes. Gil Valera (no relation to Vicente) was third with 17,828 votes.

Valera, in his petition, said his votes in the capital town of Bangued were reduced by 127, while 498 votes were added to Luna's tally. He said in Manabo, his votes decreased from 698 to 571, while Luna's votes increased from 2,024 to 2,524.

The Comelec said a statement from the Abra PBOC cited that the alleged errors were "not manifest" (or not intentional) and that the supposed deducted figures were the same in the counts conducted by the PBOC and the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel).

Wrong venue

The PBOC said the supposed errors should have been corrected at the town level and not in the provincial canvass.

"We are persuaded that there is no error in the aforecited PBOC's ruling," the Comelec resolution said.

Valera's petition included a joint affidavit from Rolando Velasco and Rodel Alcantara that said the election returns were prepared "under duress, threats, coercion or intimidation."

The Comelec said the affidavit was "self-serving" and was countered by a police certification that no such threats happened.

In Cagayan, the almost two months of waiting for the PBOC to proclaim the winning governor ended on July 9.

The PBOC, after correcting entries in results and statements of votes in some 35 precincts in Lallo town, declared former Alcala Mayor Alvaro Antonio winner in the gubernatorial race against reelectionist Gov. Edgar Lara.

PBOC records showed Antonio received 175,484 votes while Lara had 174,822 votes.

Lara, however, assailed the PBOC for continuing with the proceedings despite a motion for reconsideration he filed with the Comelec on July 3.

"It is a sham proceeding by a kangaroo PBOC," said Lara in a phone interview.

Sham

He said he would ask the Comelec *en banc* to nullify Antonio's proclamation due to supposed violations committed by the PBOC.

Lara said the PBOC violated procedures because they proceeded to reconvene, canvass the votes for Lallo and proclaim Antonio despite the motion for reconsideration that he filed within the prescribed period.

"If a motion for reconsideration is filed on time, all proceedings should stop," Lara, a lawyer, said.

He said his lawyers tried to stop the proceedings on Monday but their appeal was ignored by the PBOC.

"We are not asking the Comelec for favors. We are asking them to implement the law and the facts of the case," he said.

BALLOTS from Lacub and Malibcong towns of Abra are carried to the provincial capitol as they were airlifted to expedite proceedings in the provincial canvassing. LEONCIO BALBIN JR./INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Cop, trader die in antidrug raid

BAGUIO CITY—TWO MEN, ONE OF THEM THE head of the antidrug enforcement agency in Abra, were killed while another man was wounded in a gunfight during a drug operation on Wednesday in Zone 1 in Bangued, Abra, police said.

Police said Chief Insp. Dante Gacadan, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency provincial chief, was killed by a certain Aga Ato, a trader from Mindanao, in a clash at the Benesa Compound in Zone 1. Ato was also killed.

Wounded was Renato Guerrero, a PDEA agent.

Senior Supt. Alexander Pumecha, Abra police director, said Gacadan and his men were on a stakeout on Ato since early Wednesday morning.

He said when they were about to pounce on Ato, the gunfight occurred.

Ato was a trader operating in Abra and Ilocos Sur, Pumecha said. *Frank Cimatu, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

GE Merlin™
Point-of-Use Drinking Water System

Purify 700+ gallons per day instead of 50 with GE Merlin™ Reverse Osmosis water treatment system.

The clear advantage?
700+ gallons of pure water a day

GE Infrastructure Water & Process Technologies introduces Merlin', a new Reverse Osmosis water treatment system that does more than your regular water purifier. With 2 patented high-production, low-energy membranes instead of 1, it reduces water impurities in up to 744 gallons – that's up to 2,816 liters* of water per day, instead of only 10 to 50 gallons!

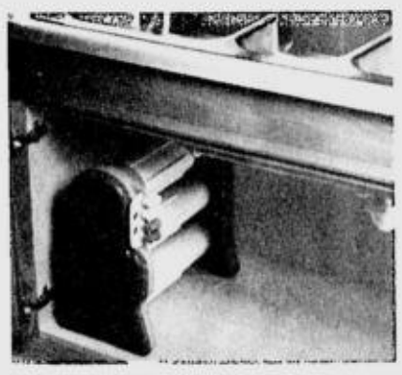
It also has a continuous-flow water production that doesn't require a storage tank. No storage tank**, no water pump needed. No water pump,*** no electricity. Furthermore, it's made of high durability Noryl® providing years of dependable and rust-free service. Best of all, it's from GE. A brand known world-wide for quality appliances.

At home, or for commercial operations (restaurants, hotels, offices and the like), Merlin provides quality water filtration.

The new GE Merlin™ RO. Get the clear advantage.

*At 50 psi (3.44 bar), 77°F (25°C), 750 ppm NaCl
** At a permeate flow rate of1.89L/minute
*** At 40 psi (2.76 bar)

Water Quality Association Gold Seal - NSF/ANSI 58 Certified



FITS IN NICELY
Stand-alone compact profile takes up less space than other bulky systems.

AT YOUR SERVICE
Custom high-flow faucet (with air gap) developed specifically for this system

GE imagination at work

For a free corporate demo, contact CYA Industries, Inc. at 643-3456 loc 402/403 or 0922-8543039. Free installation and lifetime free service in Metro Manila ONLY.

Available at leading Appliance & Home Improvement Stores. Also at the following GE showrooms: Level 4, Shangri-la, EDSA, Mandaluyong City Tel Nos: 631-8282/633-2906; 2/L Serendra, Bonifacio High St., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City Tel No. 887-0075; MC HOME DEPOT FORT BONIFACIO 32nd St. cor., Bonifacio Blvd., Global City Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila Tel. No. 815-8875. Call our service hotline (02) 643-3456 or visit our websites at www.cyaindustries.com; geappliances-philippines.com for more information.

Several dead, dozens missing as ship sinks

LUCENA CITY—A SHIP CARRYING more people than what was listed in its manifest sank off a coastal town of Quezon province yesterday, leaving several dead and a still undetermined number missing.

Authorities gave different casualty figures, however. Manuel Tamondong, Philippine Coast Guard Lucena commander, said his count was 13 dead. Lt. Col. Rhoderick Parayno, the military's Southern Luzon Command spokesman, said he counted 12. The mayor of San Francisco town, near where the ship sank, said eight were dead.

MV Blue Water was a roll-on, roll-off (Roro) type of vessel that also carried vehicles loaded with people at the time of its sinking.

Tamondong said the ship's manifest listed 28 passengers and 14 vehicles, but authorities said there were more than 100 people on board. No one could say for certain how many passengers the MV Blue Water carried when it sank.

The ship's capacity was 256 passengers.

Rescuers who rushed to the site of the sinking, about 4.7 nautical miles from the coastal village of Pagsangahan in San Francisco, said they took to safety at least 104 passengers of MV Blue Water.

In San Francisco town, authorities counted at least 106 survivors.

Coast Guard's Tamondong said MV Blue Water left the Dalahican Port here at 5 p.m. Wednesday bound for Masbate where it was expected at 5 a.m. yesterday.

He said four bodies that had been pulled out of the sea were brought to San Andres town, where two survivors were also taken.

Parayno said the bodies of six women and two men were plucked from waters off Pagsangahan Village.

Four other bodies were found in waters near a coastal village of another town, San Andres.

Parayno identified two of the dead in Pagsangahan as Welgin Perlas, a resident of Mogpog, Marinduque, and Lourdes Ricablanca, of Barangay Isabang, Lucena City.

He quoted survivors as saying more passengers were left inside the cabins.

Search and rescue teams were scouring the area for survivors but a helicopter sent to help had to turn back because of bad weather.

A Navy ship was on its way to the accident site.

Jaime Candelaria, Philippine Red Cross-Quezon chapter coordinator, identified two of the casualties found in San Andres town as Nicolas Alsiete and Rodolfo de la Fuente, who was wearing what authorities said appeared to be a ship uniform.

The two were found by Red Cross volunteers floating in the seas off the town of San Andres.

Candelaria said De la Fuente could be one of the ship officials.

Virgilio Letardo, who was identified as the ship captain, was quoted as saying he tried to steer the vessel to safety when it ran into rough seas and 12-foot waves brought by bad weather.

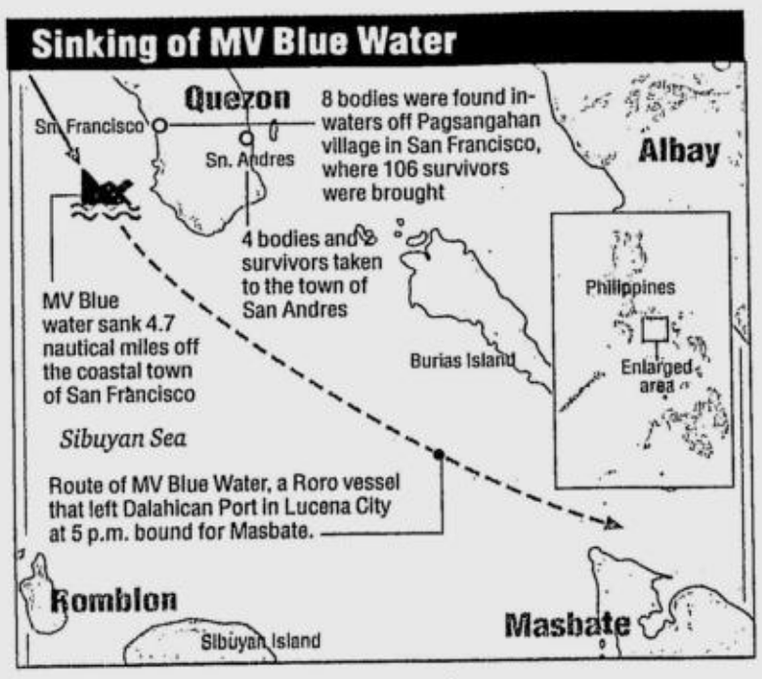
"But the ship apparently hit a huge solid mass, causing it to tilt to one side," Parayno said.

The ill-fated vessel was being operated by a company owned by Romy Reyes, scion of former shipping magnate Don Domingo Reyes of Viva Shipping Lines.

Tamondong said the ship wasn't full. "This is off season, there was no heavy volume of passengers."

He said he would initiate an investigation of why only 28 people were listed in the ship manifest, "but the total number of survivors and victims is still within the loading capacity of the vessel." *Delfin Mallari Jr. and Bobby Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Sinking of MV Blue Water



Mayor-elect says only SC can remove him

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

SASMUAN, PAMPANGA—Although the second division of the Commission on Elections has voided his victory due to lack of residency, Mayor Nardo Velasco said he would only vacate his post when the Supreme Court decides on his right as a voter.

"I will wait for the final say of the Supreme Court," Velasco said on Thursday.

His lawyer, Romulo Macalintal, said "it's not the end of the world for Velasco."

Macalintal said the Comelec second division made an "erroneous ruling" on the disqualification case filed by Mozart Panlaqui, Velasco's lone rival.

"The Comelec has no jurisdiction over the issue of whether or not Velasco is a voter. This matter is pending with the Court of Appeals," Macalintal said in a phone interview.

He said the election registration board, which disapproved on Jan. 12 Velasco's application for registration as a voter, has been directed by the Court of Appeals to submit documents.

It was the municipal trial court of Sasmuan that approved his inclusion as a voter on Feb. 9. The regional trial court of Pampanga reversed the decision.

The Comelec division ruled on the petition of Panlaqui to cancel Velasco's candidacy.

Panlaqui claimed Velasco was a non-registered voter in the town, reacquired his Philippine citizenship while remaining a naturalized American citizen, and has not satisfied the one-year residency in Sasmuan.

CHR clears cops in Kalinga eviction clash

BAGUIO CITY—POLICEMEN HAD defended themselves against attacks during a nine-hour gunfight with tribesmen during a demolition of squatter shanties in Rizal, Kalinga, on June 25, a Commission of Human Rights investigation of the clash showed.

An initial investigation report, which was submitted to the CHR-Cordillera last week, said the police and the military acted within the bounds of their duty when they responded to attacks of tribesmen who resisted the demolition of their shanties in a 200-hectare property in Sitio Malapiat in Barangay San Pascual in Rizal.

Nine people were killed and 10 policemen were hurt in the gunfight.

CHR-Cagayan investigators said the police complied with the observance of the protocols of war and the rules of engagement.

"Considering the sensitivity of the issues involved, (the CHR) most respectfully recommends the further documentation and investigation of the case," the report said.

The report was signed by CHR-Cagayan investigators Antonino Cruz and Aldwin Pasicolan and lawyer Jimmy Baliga, CHR-Cagayan regional director.

Lawyer Russell Ma-ao, regional director of CHR-Cordillera, said the CHR could not issue a resolution on the case as they were not able to get the side of the suspected illegal settlers.

Tension

She said they had difficulty reaching the tribe members due to the tension that erupted between the two parties.

"The settlers can still file a complaint so we can subpoena the police. The reason we could not issue a resolution was that we were not able to talk to the complainants. This is what is limiting us from issuing any resolution," she said.

She said the CHR would not intervene in the land dispute because the case is pending in the court.

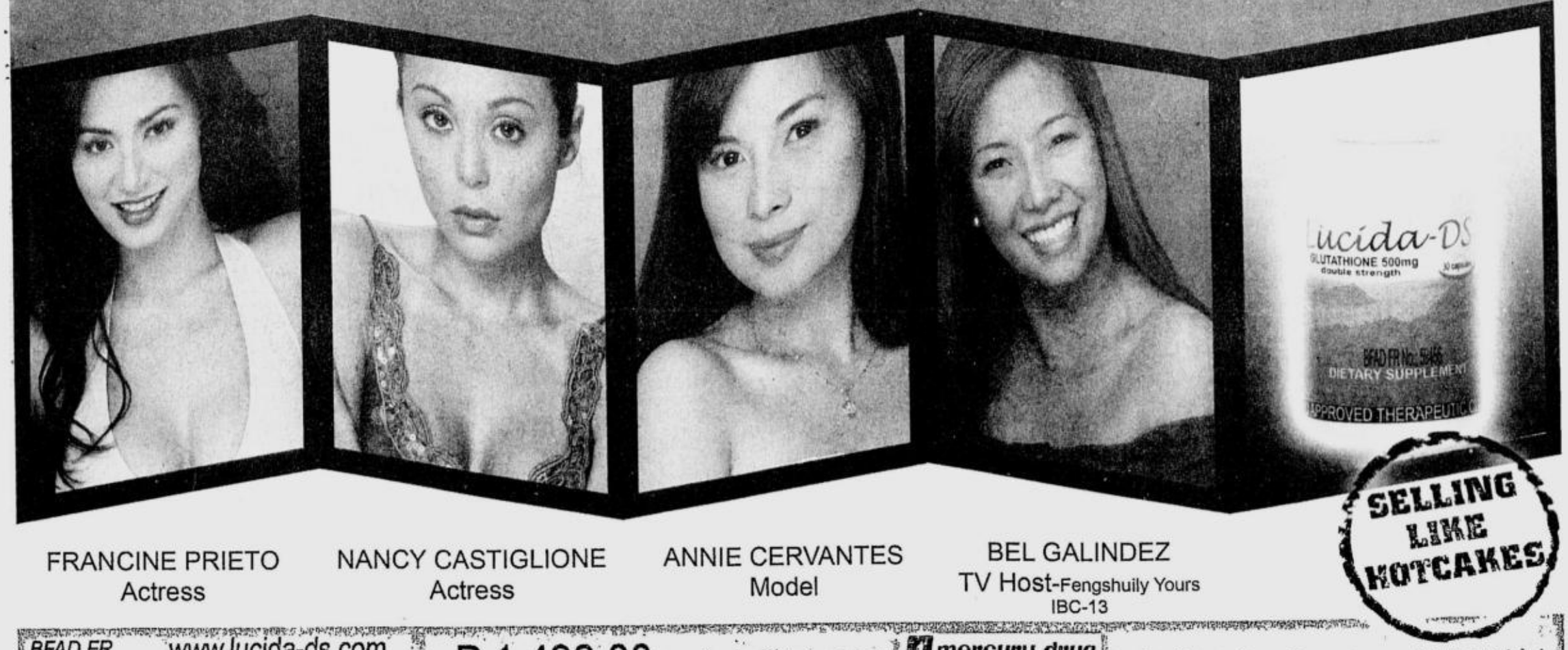
The report said the investigators witnessed the gun battle and saw that the government troops had difficulty penetrating the area because of strong resistance from the alleged squatters who were heavily armed.

The squatters seemed to be fully prepared since they were able to build fox holes inside their houses and along the fields, the report said.

The investigators said they also heard the appeal of the policemen to the residents to surrender peacefully but this was not heeded. *Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

ARMED with a 20-day temporary restraining order, these Kalinga settlers re-erect their houses by using gutted GI sheets and other usable materials in Sitio Malapiat, San Pascual, Rizal, Kalinga.
VILLAMOR VISAYA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

More and more women have discovered the amazing effects of
Lucida-DS®
Double Strength GLUTATHIONE



FRANCINE PRIETO
Actress

NANCY CASTIGLIONE
Actress

ANNIE CERVANTES
Model

BEL GALINDEZ
TV Host-Fengshuily Yours
IBC-13

SELLING LIKE HOTCAKES

BFAD FR NO.:59456
www.lucida-ds.com
-no therapeutic claim
P 1,498.00
Now Available at mercury drug NAKASISIGURO GAMOT AY LAGING BAGO and All Leading Drugstores Nationwide!

4 dead as jeep falls into ravine

COTABATO CITY—AT least four people died while 35 others suffered injuries when an overloaded jeep plunged into a ravine in Barangay Kibleg in Upi, Maguindanao on Sunday, the police reported yesterday.

Supt. Binudin Ali, Maguindanao police chief, said the jeep was on its way to this city when the driver lost control of the steering wheel as he was negotiating a sharp curve.

Upi Mayor Ramon Piang Sr. said three of the victims died instantly. The fourth victim died while being treated at a nearby government hospital.

Some of the victims suffered only minor injuries and were allowed to go home after a check-up, he said.

Drivers plying the Upi-Cotabato route always tend to overload their vehicles.

Although overloading is illegal, authorities, including the Traffic Management Command (TMC), turn a blind eye on vehicles bearing passengers beyond their capacity.

Charlie Señase, Inquirer Mindanao

N. Cotabato keeps doors shut to mining

By Charlie Señase and Jeffrey Tupas
Inquirer Mindanao

KIDAPAWAN CITY—NORTH COTABATO has kept its doors shut to big-time mining and officials are attributing its economic progress to "sustainable and market-oriented agriculture."

"To talk of mining as the seeming hope for national economic salvation ... is to ignore the fact that nowhere is there a mining area in the country where people have ended up prosperous after the mining operations," said Vice Gov. Emmanuel Piñol.

During his term as governor, Piñol implemented a no-mining policy in the province, where deposits of gold and iron have been found.

"I am not willing to see the province's mountains ripped apart in search of a few kilos of gold or copper," he said.

These mountains will be more useful for the people if planted to rubber, oil palm, coconut or other crops, he said.

In 1998, North Cotabato was one of the poorest provinces in the country. It is now the 29th progressive province, according to the National Statistics Coordination Board.

Piñol attributed the economic turnaround to sustainable and market-oriented agriculture. "Right now, we are working for the accreditation of our rubber farms in the Carbon Credit Program under the Kyoto Protocol," he said.

Under the program, companies that exceed their pollution or emission levels are required to buy "carbon credits" from those into clean, renewable energy or invest in renewable energy projects.

The provincial government has criticized Manila's aggressive push for mining as an economic centerpiece, saying it would aggravate global warming.

Piñol cited scientific studies in Malaysia, which showed that rubber trees were among the most efficient converters of carbon dioxide to oxygen.

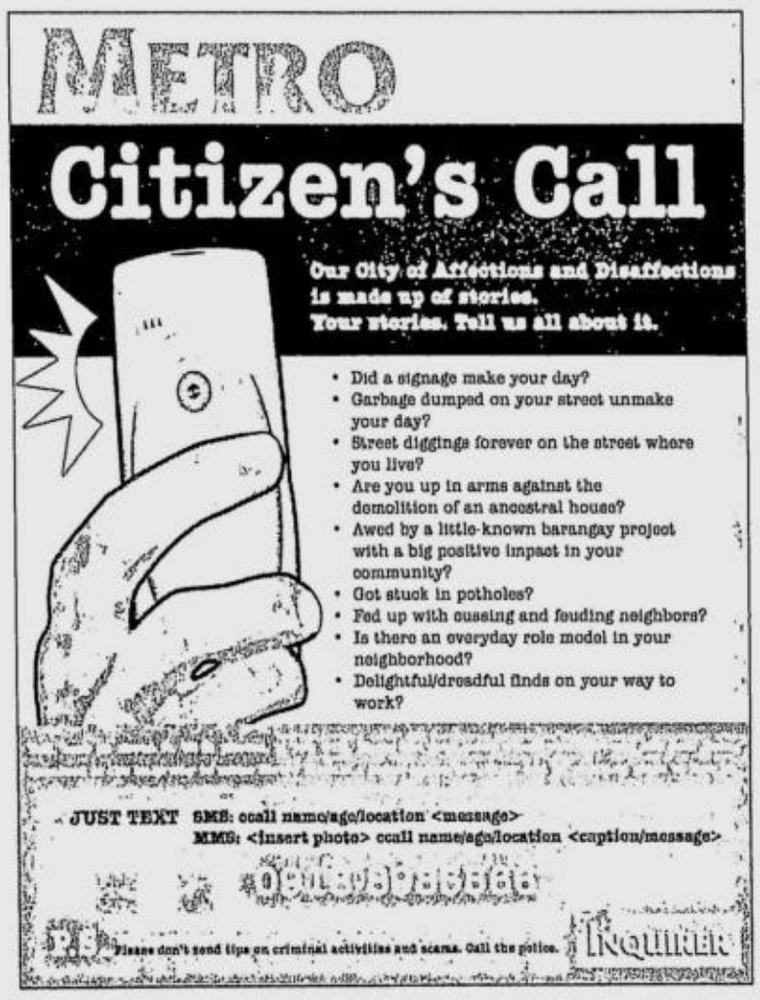
North Cotabato has some 35,000 hectares of rubber trees, 25,000 ha of coconut plantations and 3,500 ha planted to oil palm. Other areas are planted to bananas or have remained forested.

"Unless somebody could convince us that there is a huge mineral deposit underneath our soil in North Cotabato that would make each of our people millionaires, we must go slow on mining and just focus on agriculture," Piñol said.

Aside from sustainable agriculture, the province was trying to implement measures aimed at helping the global war against climate change, Gov. Jesus Sacdalan said.

"The proper utilization and disposal of wastes are among our concern to offset the thinning ozone layer of the universe," Sacdalan said.

AVAILABLE IN MODEL 5600. Dealers are welcome. For dealer inquiries, call: Super Manufacturing Inc. (02) 374-3501 to 04. Now available at: SM Appliance Bacoor, Cebu, Fairview, Makati, Manila, Megamall, N.E. III, N.E. Main, Pampanga, Southmall, Sta. Mesa, Davao, Dasmariñas • 5th Avenue Shangri-la, Makati, N.E., Ermita, Mall Of Asia, Telecoms • Abenson N.E., Makati, Alabang, Cainta • Avesco Frisco, Cubao, Manila • Western Marketing Farmer's Plaza, Festival Mall, Grand Central, Megamall, Pasay Road, Greenhills,Sta. Lucia, • Prov. Dealers: Golden Bell Zamboanga, Golden Bell Davao, Golden Bell Cagayan De Oro, Gleen Marketing Tacloban, Bhf Corporation Urdaneta



Paano Sumali:

1. **INSTANT WIN**. Kolektahin ang mga "Halls Pera sa Wrapper Promo 3" wrappers at buuin ang mga letrang H-A-L-L-S upang maging isa sa DALAWANG maaaring manalo ng Php 1,000,000.00!
2. **RAFFLE.** Mag-ipon ng sampung (10) Halls wrappers at ilagay sa isang envelop at lakipan ng sumusunod na impormasyon: PANGALAN, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, at LAGDA, upang magkaroon ng pagkakataong manalo ng:
   (i) Php500,000.00 prize (2 winners)
   (ii) Php100,000.00 prize (10 winners)
   Maaari rin isama sa entry ang pangalan at address ng tindahan o may-ari ng tindahan kung saan o kanino nabili ang Halls kendi, upang magkaroon din sila ng pagkakataong manalo ng premyo para sa mga store winners:
   (i) Php10,000.00 prize (2 store winners)
   (ii) Php5,000.00 prize (10 store winners)
   Ihulog ang entries sa Halls Pera sa Wrapper Promo 3 Drop Boxes sa mga LBC branches at mga authorized na outlets o supermarkets nationwide, o maaaring ipadala sa: *Communications Advantage Inc. #14 Calle Industria, Bagumbayan, Libis, Quezon City, 1110.*

Promo Period:
Ang promo ay mula Hunyo 1, 2007 - Setyembre 28,2007.

Promo Wrappers:
1. Ang mga wrappers ay tatanggapin na valid entries kung ito ay naaayan sa mga sumusunod: (i) Ang mga letra at salita na nako-imprenta sa loob ng wrapper ay kailangang nabasa; (ii) ang wrapper ay hindi nabago o pinakialaman ninuman; (iii) ito ay tunay at orihinal na Halls wrapper na gawa lamang ng Cadbury Adams Thailand Ltd.; (iv) ito ay binili sa Pilipinas; at (v) ito ay naglalaman ng tamang security codes.
2. Bawat isang panalang wrapper ay may sariili at kakaibang security code, upang malaman sa pagsusuri kung ito ang tamang wrapper na dapat manalo. Ang Cadbury Adams (Philippines), Inc. ("CAPI") ay may karapatang di ipaalam sa publiko ang anumang impormasyon tungkol sa mga security codes hanggang sa araw ng paglalapos ng promo at nakilala na ang mga nanalo.
3. Para sa Instant Win ang mga 2007 promo wrappers lamang na may letak na "Halls Pera sa Wrapper 3" ang tatanggapin. Ang mga wrappers na mula sa 2005 at 2006 "Halls Pera sa Wrapper" promo ay hindi kasali sa promo na ito.
4. Para sa mga entries sa Raffle, pwedeng gamitin ang kahit anong klasong valid Halls wrapper.
5. Ang lahat ng wrappers na ipangtutubos ng premyo ay susuriin ng mga kinatawan ng CAPI, Bureau of Food and Drugs ("BFAD"), at ng mga independent external auditors.

Para sa Instant Win prizes:
1. Kapag nakumpleto ang mga letrang H-A-L-L-S, lumiwag sa Halls Promo Hotline upang malaman ang mga dapat na gawin at dalhin sa pag-suri ng wrappers at pagkuha ng premyo.
2. Ano man ang ideklara ng CAPI at ng mga kinatawan nito pagkatapos ng pagsusuri na naaayan sa BFAD, ay ituturing na huling desisyon at hindi na pwedeng i-apela.

Raffle Draws:
1. Ang mga draws ay gagampanin sa **July 16, Aug 20, at Oct 5, 2007**. Magkakaroon ng announcement of winners sa Wowowee noontime TV show sa **July 20, August 24 at October 12, 2007**. Ang mga draw dates ay maaaring ilipat basta may prior written approval mula sa BFAD at notice sa publiko.
2. Kung ang winning entry ay walang pangalan at address ng tindahan o ng may-ari ng tindahan, ang entry ay valid pa rin subalit walang ideklarang store winner para sa kaakibat na premyo.
3. Kung ang raffle winner ay siya ring may-ari ng tindahan, makakamit niya ang naturang premyo at nauukol na premyo para sa store winner.
4. Lahat ng raffle entries ay dapat naihulog sa mga naitalagang drop boxes o naipadala sa *Communications Advantage Inc.* ng hindi kukulang sa limang (5) araw bago ng draw dates para maisama sa draws. Hindi sagot ng CAPI ang mga nawawala, di maintindihan, di kumpleto, sira-sira, o huli na mga entries.

Claiming of Prizes
1. **For Raffle Draw prizes:** Sasabihan ang lahat ng mga nanalo sa pamamagitan ng telegrama at/o registered mail. Para ma-claim ang mga premyo, ang mga nanalo ay kailangang magpakita ng dalawang (2) valid IDs na may larawan kasama ang telegrama o mail notification, na iinspeksyunin ng authorized representative ng CAPI. Ang mga store winners naman ay kailangang magpakita ng at least dalawang (2) pruweba na nagpapatunay na sila ang may-ari ng tindahan (i.e. local business permits, BIR registration, DTI Registration, etc.) kung ang pangalan ng tindahan ay nakasulat sa winning entry: o (ii) at least two valid IDs, kung ang nakalagay lamang sa winning entry ay ang pangalan ng may-ari ng tindahan.
2. Ang mga nanalo sa raffle draw ay maaaring pumunta sa naatasang office/ provincial branch na nakalagay sa sulat na malatanggap nila. Ang pagkuha na premyo ay hanggang sa Nobyembre 30, 2007 lamang. Ang mga premyong di pa nakukuha sa tinakdang araw na ito ay forfeited ayon sa desisyon ng BFAD
3. Ang mga nanalo ay maaaring mag-assign ng proxy sa pagkuha ng kanilang premyo. Ang proxy ay kailangang magbigay ng duly notarized letter of authorization na may pirma ng nanalo kasama ang dalawang (2) valid IDs ng nanalo, two (2) valid IDs ng proxy, at ang mga nasuri at na-authenticate na winning wrappers para sa instant winners, o ang mail notification para sa raffle winners. Ang notarized letter ay kailangan ding dalhin ng claimant's authorized representative na naitalagang pumunta sa verification process para sa Instant Win prizes.
4. Ang mga sinumiteng winning wrappers na pinantubos sa mga premyo ay pag-aari na ng CAPI.
5. Ang mga pangalan, larawan, at tirahan ng mga nanalo ay ilalathala sa mga pahayagan sa loob ng 2 linggo matapos malaman ang mga panalo. Maaari rin itong gamitin sa iba pang mga patalastas.
6. Ang pamasahe at iba pang gastos ng mga nanalo para sa pag-suri ng wrappers at pagkuha ng premyo ay hindi pananagutan ng CAPI.
7. Lahat ng premyo ay subject to tax. Tatanggapin ng mga nanalo ang kanilang cash prizes net of 20% prize tax. Ang taxes ay iwi-withhold ng CAPI na na-aayan sa regulasyon ng Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Other Rules
1. Minsan lang pwedeng manalo ang mga winners. Kung ang winner ay nanalo ng higit sa isang beses, ang tatanggapin niya ay ang mas malaking premyo.
2. Hindi tatanggapin ng CAPI at ng mga ahente nito ang mga nawawala, di maintindihan, di kumpleto, sira-sira, o late na mga entries.
3. Ang mga empleyado, director, opisyales ng CAPI, McKenzie Distribution, Inc., suppliers, promo agencies, ad agency, DOH-BFAD, at mga kamag-anak nila hanggang ikalawang (2nd) degree of consanguinity or affinity, at pati na rin mga taong regular na naglalrabaho sa kanila ay hindi maaaring sumali sa promo.

Abangan ang announcement of winners sa Wowowee on July 20, August 24 and October 12, 2007.

Halls Promo Hotline: (02) 883-4127 (Mon-Fri, 9-12nn, 1-5pm).

Per DOH-BFAD Permit # 0025 series of 2007.

Mortars were duds, warnings ignored

From page A1

fire, many of the rounds appeared to be duds.

In the video, the Marines were seen loading the mortar launcher and firing. There were instances when the rounds worked. But there were also instances when nothing happened after mortars were dropped into launchers, and the Marines were seen turning it over to take out the apparently faulty rounds.

Military and defense officials agreed that there were lessons to be learned from Tuesday's attack, including examining their stock of ammunition.

One lesson may be to listen to the information of local officials.

The Marines went to Ginanta to check on reports that Bossi was being brought by his captors to the village in Basilan. The Italian missionary was seized in Payao town in Zamboanga Sibugay after celebrating Sunday Mass on June 10.

Not in Basilan?

Basilan Rep. Wahab Akhbar said Bossi was not sighted in any municipality of the province.

"The local officials, especially the mayor of Albarka, told the AFP many times that Bossi was never sighted in any municipality in the province. But it seems the information directly coming from the local officials are not respected and not honored by the military, that's why this incident happened," Akhbar said.

Karam said he had also received reports that Bossi and his kidnappers were hiding in his town. "I had already spent so much dispatching my people; they did not see Bossi here," he said.

But the mayor said the suspected kidnappers—Nurwani Abdusalam and his men—were seen in Barangay Pakisong in Tipo-Tipo Central on June 17.

Abdusalam allegedly went to the house of Nurhassan Jamiri in Barangay Limbo Pas and then visited his two nephews in Ginanta, Karam said. Jamiri is a known Abu Sayyaf member, he said.

"They stayed for 10 days and left. We don't know where they went," Karam said.

Alivio said he was optimistic that Bossi was being held somewhere in Basilan. He cited several informants who had brought photos and an audio recording made by the victim.

One of those who had the photos, taken with a mobile phone, was former Tuburan Mayor Hajarun Jamiri, an uncle of Nurhassan Jamiri who was considered a "possible link" to the kidnapped priest, Alivio said.

Former Deputy Speaker Gerry Salappudin agreed with Akhbar, his political opponent, that Bossi "is not in Basilan" but was "still in the Zamboanga-Sibugay area."

"At this stage, I believe the use of military force is unnecessary and we must first allow all peaceful negotiations to take place for the freedom of the Italian priest," Salappudin said.

Both Akhbar and Salappudin know the terrain around Albarka since both served as governors and had once fought government troops there.

Akhbar was reportedly one of the founding commanders of the Abu Sayyaf Group years before he became governor, while Salappudin was a commander of the Moro National Liberation Front in the 1970s before he surrendered in the early 1980s.

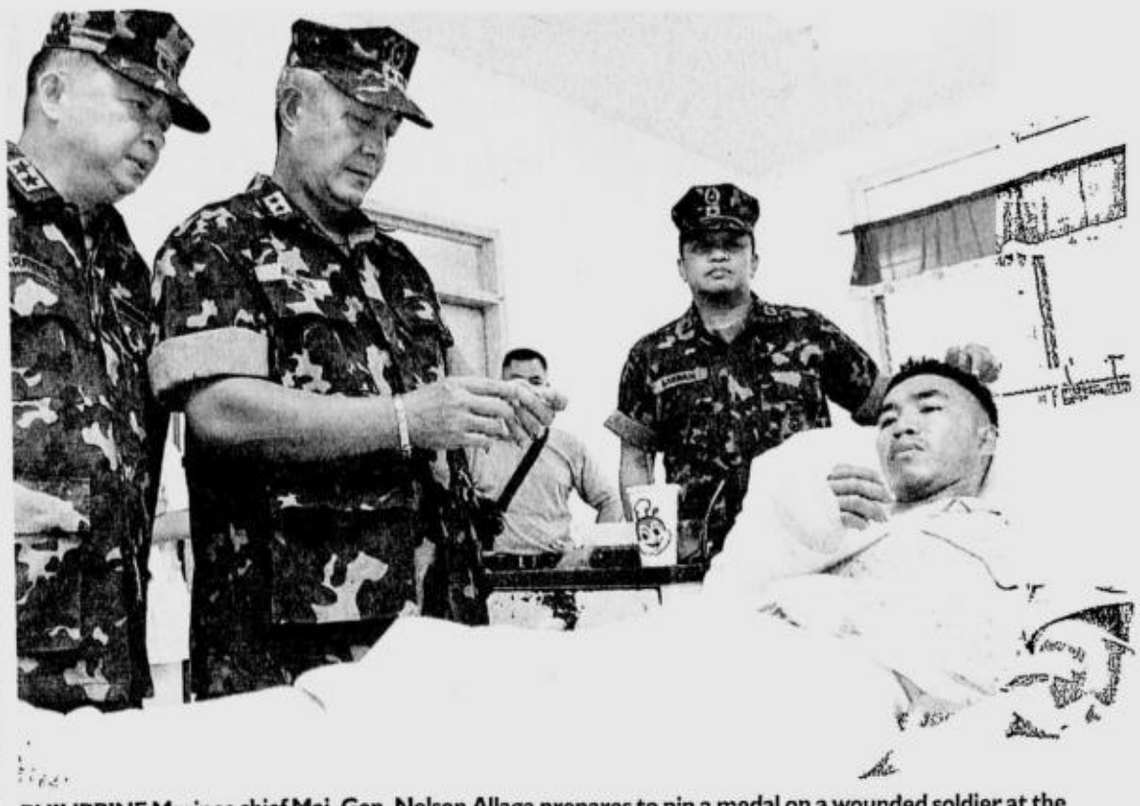
Warning to Marines

According to Akhbar, Mayor Karam and the police chief of Albarka had advised the Marine officers against entering Ginanta, which, they said, "is an MILF-controlled area under the ceasefire agreement." The mayor confirmed the information in a mobile phone interview.

But Karam said the military allegedly insisted on making a "right turn" to the village as it was a shorter route to their destination.

Karam said that upon his arrival in Basilan from a trip to Cotabato, he went straight to the battalion headquarters to advise its commander to order his men to avoid Ginanta. But a failure in radio communications prevented the officer from reaching his troops, he said.

Akhbar said the Marines were given enough warning by the local officials. The "unfortunate" encounter took place because, he said, "some eyes and ears are covered and even hearts are sealed."



PHILIPPINE Marines chief Maj. Gen. Nelson Allaga prepares to pin a medal on a wounded soldier at the Southern Command military hospital in Zamboanga City on Thursday. Nine Marines were wounded in fierce fighting with Moro rebels on Tuesday in Basilan province. AP

"The local officials did their part but their voices were not respected. If only they listened and believed," he said.

Salappudin said it was a simple case of "disregarding the guidelines under the terms and conditions of the cessation of hostilities."

In past kidnapping cases, especially those involving foreign nationals like Bossi, he said, "the force of diplomacy must be exhausted first before the diplomacy of force is used."

Close to his heart

Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, one of the leaders of the Oakwood mutiny of 2003, wants a deeper inquiry into the ambush.

Speaking through his lawyer Rey Robles, the former Navy lieutenant expressed his "deepest sympathy to the families of the soldiers who perished in the line of duty."

"It is obvious from television footage that defective ammunition was issued to them [Marines], which may have resulted in their failure to effectively defend themselves against the enemy," Trillanes said.

The ambush resulted in the death of 14 Marines and the wounding of nine others—the biggest casualty list of troops in a single encounter in the last two years, according to the military. Ten of the slain Marines were beheaded.

The issue of defective military weapons is close to Trillanes' heart.

As one of the leaders of the mutinous Magdalo group of soldiers, he decried the supposed corruption in the government and the military that, he said, had deprived soldiers of proper uniforms, effective weapons and sufficient compensation and benefits.

Robles said Trillanes was calling on the government and the Armed Forces of the Philippines to pay serious attention to the matter and mount an investigation.

Many reasons

"The senator is currently gathering information regarding the incident and will act accordingly once [the investigation] is completed," Robles said.

Lt. Col. Ariel Caculitan, spokesperson of the Marines, said there were many reasons the mortar rounds did not fire, including faulty storage.

"Given the nature of the way soldiers are deployed, it's almost impossible to properly store ammunition," Caculitan said in a phone interview.

He acknowledged that he had been in fire fights where mortar ammunition failed.

Having seen the GMA 7 video, he said the Tuesday debacle could "trigger an evaluation of mortar rounds" in military storage.

"It opens an opportunity and need for us to evaluate the performance of our ammunition and ordnance," he said.

Critical situation

Defense Undersecretary Ernesto Carolina, a retired general, said encounters where ammunition failed had actually happened.

But Carolina, who retired in 2003 and who was actively involved in military efforts to rescue foreigners taken hostage by the Abu Sayyaf from a Palawan resort, said what happened in Basilan was "a serious matter."

"I am sure the military is now looking into this," he said, acknowledging that he had seen the GMA 7 video showing the mortar rounds that did not work.

He said it was saddening to see such an occurrence in a critical situation.

Carolina echoed Caculitan's theory of faulty storage of the mortars. But he also cited improper handling, and even the manufacture, of the ammunition itself.

Unlike ammunition for firearms, mortar rounds are more sensitive, according to Carolina.

He said mortar rounds were stored in casings and could be affected by improper storage.

"We should learn from our experience and correct it immediately," Carolina said, adding that this problem was supposed to have been addressed by the military earlier on.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, another ex-military man in the Senate, wants more information before attributing the soldiers' bloody defeat in Basilan to defective weapons.

Biazon—who in 2001 instigated a Senate inquiry into the allegation that defective weapons had allowed Abu Sayyaf bandits cornered by the military in Lamitan, Basilan, to slip away—said his initial information indicated other factors could have affected the mortar launcher in Tipo-Tipo.

Ammo exposed to elements

"We cannot conclude that the weapons are defective because sometimes the troops, when they go out in the field, remove the encasement of their ammunition [to lighten their load]. This exposes the ammunition to the elements," Biazon said.

"Sometimes [the rounds] get wet, or moisture messes up the propeller chargers. But we are still looking for more details," he said.

Biazon also said that the Lamitan inquiry did not provide "conclusive evidence" that military-issued weapons were of poor quality.

GMA orders AFP: Get the savages

From page A1

Gunfire soon rang out, sending the television crew scrambling for cover. The soldiers tried to return fire but many of the mortar shells failed to go off.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon said an additional battalion of Marines from Sulu was being dispatched to Basilan to reinforce the troops there and to track down those responsible for the beheadings.

"At this time we are going after the beheaders, regardless of who they are—MILF or Abu Sayyaf," Esperon said in Malacañang after the oath-taking of new generals and other officials.

"We simply have to go after the perpetrators of these outrageous acts. We cannot allow people to be beheading people even if they are combatants. Everybody must condemn this kind of dastardly attack," he said.

Peace process is primary

But for now, the military will "hold its punches" and "keep its cool" until it could establish who was really behind the attack.

Government and military officials yesterday said they were "giving primacy to the peace process," referring to the peace negotiations between the government and the MILF. Both sides also have a ceasefire agreement.

"We cannot just launch operations as we want," Esperon said in a news conference. "We lost 14 people. We do not want other things to be the casualties of this incident."

"Just be assured that while we are holding our punches, we can act accordingly," he said. "It is just because we have to give primacy to the peace process. Don't interpret that as a weakness on the government side."

The ceasefire between the military and the MILF, which has been in place since 2003, has been occasionally broken, but the latest fighting was one of the most serious violations.

After signing the ceasefire agreement in 2001, the government and the MILF set up a joint Coordinating Committee for the Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH) and an ad hoc joint action group to enforce the truce and address violations.

An International Monitoring Team (IMT) is also in place to back the ceasefire. It is led by Malaysia and includes Brunei, Bahrain, Libya, Indonesia and Saudi Arabia.

Ms Arroyo said the government would "account for the perpetrators of this heinous attack in line with the rule of law, through the mechanisms of the peace process."

"If the perpetrators are the Abu Sayyaf, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front must stand apart from these terrorists and allow their pursuit and interdiction by government forces," she said.

"If MILF forces are culpable, then they must be accounted for by the ceasefire committee and be brought to justice. There can be no excuses or alibis for these acts of savagery," the President said.

Probe

Esperon, along with acting Defense Secretary Norberto Gonzales and Presidential Adviser to the Peace Process Jesus Dureza, was careful not to link the MILF to the attack and the beheadings until the military completed its investigation.

For now, the military was "not saying that the MILF did it," the AFP chief said. "But since they (rebels) claimed that this happened in this area, a full investigation must be conducted."

Conducting the probe was Western Mindanao chief Lt. Gen. Eugene Cedo, Marine commandant Maj. Gen. Nelson Allaga, and representatives of the government panel to the CCCH and the IMT.

If the investigation showed that the MILF indeed had a hand, the military will file a complaint with the CCCH—a matter best left for Cedo, Esperon said.

The additional battalion will come from Sulu and reinforce the two Marine battalions now in Basilan, Marine spokesperson Lt. Col. Ariel Caculitan said in a phone interview.

Dureza said the ambush was not expected to affect efforts of the government and the MILF to resume the peace talks.

"There is more reason with incidents like this to get the peace talks going already. Because when you get the peace talks already on track, incidents like this are immediately addressed," he said.

Iron-fist response

Appalled by the grisly fate of the Marines, senators yesterday urged Ms Arroyo to use an iron fist in crushing the perpetrators.

"If the government does not show resolution or resolve or determination in a situation like that, they will continue doing it," said Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile. "If that is their system they are not entitled to any consideration. Not even the laws of war apply to them."

"All the armed groups that are killing our soldiers and policemen should be crushed and finished for a long-lasting and permanent peace. If I am the leader of this country, that is what I will enforce and do," Sen. Panfilo Lacson said.

Lacson, a former chief of the Philippine National Police, said the government should not tolerate rebel groups holding sway in any part of the country's territory.

"Only the state should be allowed to have armed groups in all parts of this country. Aside from the AFP, PNP, NBI and groups licensed to carry arms like security guards, no one should be allowed to carry arms especially those fighting the government," he said.

Soldiers' discipline

In an interview with dzBB radio, Enrile said the soldiers' poor discipline could also be the culprit.

"Based on what I read, they are just strolling around in their vehicles even though they know the area is a combat zone, they did not take any precaution. If I were the commander, I'd tell my soldiers to go on foot in a situation like that. You'd be dead even before you get out of the vehicle," he said.

The endless cycle of "talk-talk, fight-fight" should now end, Enrile said.

"If your enemy is only intending to deceive you, we will be the ones who'd run out of soldiers. We will have casualties, and they can run. They are using guerrilla tactics, and they are using guerrilla warfare, the government will lose if that is their system," he said.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. also urged the military to deliver a "forceful response" against the rebels.

"The beheading of the Marine soldiers demands a forceful response from the government to assert the rule of law in Basilan. Too bad, the acts of the extremists call for more violence in their homeground. May the innocent be spared," Pimentel said.

Two former military officers in the House of Representatives yesterday said that the ambush of Marine soldiers was cause for the government to reconsider continuing its peace talks with the MILF.

Sorsogon Rep. Jose Solis and Cavite Rep. Joseph Abaya said the tragedy also made apparent the need for more modern and effective weaponry for the Filipino soldiers. *(See story on Page A1.)*

"Will you still continue talking (peace with the MILF) when something like this happens?" Solis said at the weekly Serye news forum in Quezon City.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said the government should take a "hard look" at the talks to determine whether the MILF was "sincere or speaking with forked tongue."

"They should have no hidden agenda (in solving) the peace problem in Mindanao," he said in a joint statement with Zamboanga Rep. Antonio Cerilles.

Cerilles said a review of the negotiations would determine the "prudence" of further pursuing peace with the MILF.

Violence not answer

Bossi's congregation, the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions (Pime), said it was not happy at how things had been turning out.

Fr. Gianni Sandalo, Pime regional superior, told the INQUIRER over the phone that "this should not be the way to solve and seek release of Father Giancarlo, force or violence is not the answer to solve the crisis."

"We are not happy of the incident. We are praying for the poor souls of innocent people, even those slain soldiers are innocent," Sandalo said.

"We should not solve the problem by way of force, we should solve it through dialogue, understanding and maintain respect and human dignity," he added.

With reports from Norman Bordadora, Christian V. Esguerra, Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao; Reuters, AFP

Imam killing may have triggered beheadings

From page A1

tially blind, was found dead near his house in the morning of July 10 in Ginanta, Mayor Jakilan Karam told the INQUIRER. The imam's body was riddled with bullets, his hands and feet tied with rope, he said.

Hours after Alkanul's body was discovered, Marines searching for kidnapped Italian priest Giancarlo Bossi were ambushed by MILF forces in the village. Fourteen soldiers were killed while nine others were wounded. Ten of the fatalities were beheaded.

"Because of what happened to the only imam here, the people were angry," Karam said in Filipino.

Even so, Karam and police officials could not say who was behind the imam's killing.

Brig. Gen. Ramiro Alivio, 1st Marine Brigade commander, denied any military involvement in the death of the imam.

"They just concocted that story. If indeed there was an imam killed or wounded, he might have been caught in the crossfire. But as far as we are concerned, we don't execute people," Alivio said.

Deep hatred

The Marines were on their way back to their headquarters in Campo Uno in Lamitan City when they were ambushed, he said.

Tipo-Tipo is a known stronghold of the MILF led by Hamsa Sapanton, according to Maj. Gen. Raymundo Ferrer, 4th Infantry Division commander.

"I remember that at the height of the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf Group, there were no reported or monitored encounters in the area," Ferrer said. "Most of the engagements against these bandits were in Sumisip and Tuburan."

Karam, however, could not say who was behind the beheading of the 10 soldiers. "But you could see the deep hatred," he said.

No man's land

Senior Supt. Salik Macapantar, Basilan police chief, confirmed the killing of Alkanul, "but we are still investigating if the mutilation (of the Marines) had something to do with the killing of the imam."

Albarka is one of three newly created towns here. It used to be part of Tipo-Tipo municipality.

Ginanta is now considered a no-man's land. Some 2,000 residents had abandoned their homes since Tuesday, Karam said.

Three neighboring villages—Linungan, Magtawa and Makalang—had also been deserted by their residents who fled to Tuburan and Lamitan towns.

"We don't have an evacuation center here," Karam said.

Roxas urges disclosure ...

From page A1

AHI was the first proponent of the NBN.

"Information on matters of public interest must be readily made available to the people under pain of sanctions against errant government officials and employees illegally hiding secrets from Juan de la Cruz," Roxas said.

Access to official info

The senator said Ms Arroyo could not avoid the public's demand for more information on the NBN contract, which was awarded without a bidding to ZTE Corp. because "the Constitution guarantees free access to official information."

The project, which aims to connect seamlessly connect all the government agencies through landlines, the Internet and mobile phones, is to be financed by a Chinese loan.

The awarding of the contract has been kept from the public, which only got to know of the deal when other parties complained about the government decision to give the contract to ZTE when there were substantially lower offers.

Loan not investment

The government had trumpeted the deal as an investment by ZTE but it turned out the project would be bankrolled by a loan from China to be paid by the government.

The deal became more controversial when government officials admitted to losing the contract shortly after it was signed in China.

Malacañang has distanced itself from the project as it has let the Department of Transportation and Communications justify the award of the contract to ZTE.

Erosion of faith

The lack of transparency in the Arroyo administration's dealings has led to the "erosion of faith" in the country's leaders and the bureaucracy, according to Roxas.

He has filed a bill compelling the government to reply within two days to all written requests for information regarding official acts, processes, transactions, and decisions and government data.

The bill imposes penalties of up to P30,000 and imprisonment of up to three years on government officials for denying access to information without legal grounds or due to negligence.

Sense of 'delicadeza'

Because of AHI's efforts to win the NBN contract, Garcia appealed to De Venecia not to contest the House leadership.

"That will be up to his sense of *delicadeza*. Section 5 of the (Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act) applies to the relatives of the public official, not to the public official himself," Garcia said.

He said that under Section 5 of the Act, it was unlawful for any relative within the third civil degree of consanguinity or affinity of the President, the Vice President, the Senate President and the House Speaker to intervene in any business transaction with the Philippine government.

Garcia claimed there was a "criminal wrongdoing" with De Venecia III's bid to win the NBN deal.

Marinelle O'Santos, a lawyer and spokesperson of AHI, said the young De Venecia had yet to cause any intervention in the government contract.

"If (De Venecia III) has intervened (and) used the Speaker's name in vain to get the contract, how come we didn't get the deal?" O'Santos said.

Omission

O'Santos said Garcia's reference to Section 5 of the antigraft law failed to include the exceptions that may be applied to De Venecia III's case.

"Surely, they didn't include that part of the law that will destroy their sound bite (on TV news)," O'Santos said.

She said reading Section 5 further would show that a relative of the concerned official—the President, Vice President, Senate President or Speaker—may be involved in a government deal if the official will not have any say in the approval of the contract.

"In this case, Speaker de Venecia has no say on whether the contract will be awarded to us or not. It will just be the National Economic Development Authority that will review it," the AHI spokesperson said.

O'Santos said it would be unfair to the company if it would not get the contract just because of the fight between the elder De Venecia and Garcia over the leadership of the House.

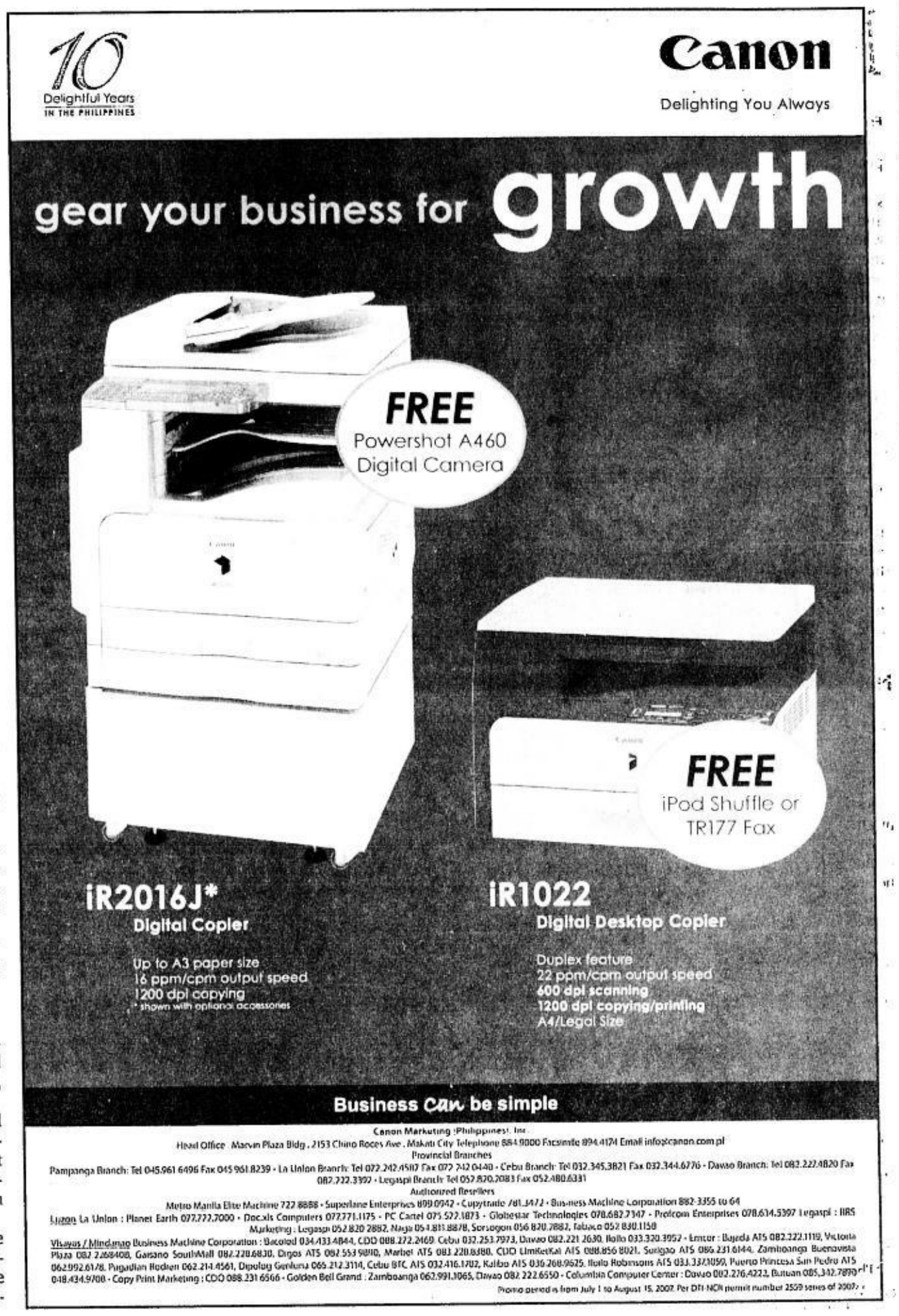
"For Amsterdam Holdings, it's just business. We don't want to be dragged into the politics of the House," she said.

Private sector initiative

O'Santos earlier said that the proposed project was strictly a private sector initiative and would involve no government investment, guarantee, sovereign risk or equity.

"AHI and Jose de Venecia III were careful from the beginning not to ask for a Philippine government contract, government loan, government bank guarantee, or government equity," O'Santos earlier said in a statement.

"The ZTE contract will need a Philippine government loan of $329 million. Nonetheless, if the government wants ZTE, so be it. We will just pursue our projects in other countries," she said.



Filipinos most ...

From page A1

ed by stress.

Residents of Hong Kong reported the second highest incidence of stress while those in India were the least stressed-out (22 percent), according to the survey. The regional average is 30 percent.

The survey conducted in August 2006 involved 24,000 respondents in seven Asian countries—the Philippines, Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand. Respondents were asked questions pertaining to their health and ailments, use of medicines and remedies, their views on hospital care and overseas medical care, among other things.

Three out of five Filipinos surveyed (60 percent) claimed they enjoyed good health—slightly ahead of the Asian average of 57 percent. Even so, Filipinos reported the highest level of illness in their households, according to the survey.

Heart and sight problems, arthritis and tuberculosis were likewise found to be "more prevalent in the Philippines than in the other markets surveyed," Reader's Digest said in a statement.

Stick to native diet

"If people stuck to their native diet of fish and vegetables, they would be all right," said Dr. Antonio Sibulo of St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City.

"But Western fast food is much more appealing and those foods have higher cholesterol and fat levels. Particularly in urban areas, cholesterol levels are on the high side," Sibulo explained.

"In rural areas, we see more rheumatic heart ailments; in the cities, more cardiovascular complaints and coronary heart disease," he said.

Slightly more than seven of 10 Filipinos surveyed (71.1 percent) said they had high blood pressure, and nearly four out of five (79.5 percent) said they were worried about it.

Other ailments affecting Filipinos included arthritis (56.4 percent), high cholesterol (54.6 percent), sight problems (52.1 percent), weight problems or obesity (39.3 percent) and diabetes (38.9 percent).

Filipinos were also worried about high cholesterol (70.8 percent) and diabetes (70 percent). While only 10.6 percent of Filipino respondents had cancer, it ranked fourth (51.4 percent) among the ailments that worried them.

The findings were presented in the first Asian Health Forum held at the Hilton Hotel in Singapore last month.

Top health concerns

The survey found that urbanites across Asia are concerned about their health but are confused about what they should be worried about and where to turn to for answers.

"What we found was that urban Asians are quite confused and, frankly, scared about their health," Reader's Digest Asia editor in chief Jim Plouffe said. "This became the basis of Reader's Digest's first Asian Health Forum at which we hope to address these fears and attempt to find solutions."

Across Asia, close to half of all the respondents said they were "in the pink of health" while 40 percent rated their health as average or below average. A mere 5.8 percent of respondents said they were "in excellent health."

Among the top concerns of Asians are high blood pressure (65 percent), high cholesterol (62 percent), diabetes (61 percent), cancer (46 percent) and weight problems (46 percent).

High blood pressure is the top ailment affecting Asians, with 60 percent saying they were afflicted with the illness.

Forty-four percent said they had a high cholesterol level, 40 percent reported sight problems, 40 percent reported weight problems and 37 percent said they had diabetes.

US for medical treatment

The survey also found that respiratory problems were the top reason (81 percent) Asians consulted a doctor.

Four in 10 Asians (41 percent) indicated that they did not have medical insurance, while about a fourth (25 percent) "seldom or never" went for medical checkup.

Regarding the preferred overseas destination for medical treatment of Asians, the United States topped the list (80 percent), while Singapore came in second (44 percent).

Late SPORTS

More Sports stories on A27-A30

CAGE INVITATIONAL

RP downs Lebanon

By Francis Ochoa

ONE BY ONE, THEY SLAPPED THE ICING ON THE CAKE IN A GAME against a team they couldn't quite finish off the last time they squared off: Renren Ritualo, Gabe Norwood, Kelly Williams and then, finally, Jimmy Alapag.

The four came up with what could be their final argument in favor of their inclusion to the final roster of the Olympics-seeking Philippine team as they came on strong in the stretch to lead San Miguel-RP to an 88-83 victory over Lebanon last night in the Smart 4-Nation Manila Invitational Championship at The Arena in San Juan.

Ritualo clustered three triples to help the Nationals withstand Joseph Vogel's almost single-handed effort to relive a Philippine heartache inflicted by the Lebanese in the Jones Cup.

First Game story on A27

Norwood had a huge three to beat the shotclock, Williams scored the back-breaking putback that deflated the Lebanese and Alapag knocked in free throws to seal the win.

And all that came in a gut-wrenching six-minute stretch in the fourth quarter just as the Filipinos looked ready for yet another spectacular collapse.

"More than the victory, it's the way we won that is really satisfying," said San Miguel-RP coach Chot Reyes, whose boys fell to Lebanon in the recent Jones Cup in Taiwan, losing on a buzzer-beating triple from Rony Fahed, 87-84.

The Philippines got off to a strong start anchored on Dondon Hontiveros and Williams, taking leads of as many as 17 points in the first half.

The scores:

SMC-PILIPINAS 88—Ritualo 15, Alapag 14, Williams 13, Hontiveros 12, Norwood 9, Dela Cruz 6, Raymundo 6, Taulava 5, De Ocampo 3, Pennisi 3, Menk 2, Helterbrand 0.

LEBANON 83—Vogel 25, Fahed 25, Abdel Nour 12, Beshara 9, Mahmmoud 9, Balaa 2, Samaha 1, Mneimneh 0, Fakhreddine 0, Turk 0.

Quarters: 23-14, 55-40, 65-60, 88-83

PEACE ON EARTH

PEACE OF MIND.

If a dove universally implies peace then Shell **Flintkote** is the symbol for **100% Watertight protection for complete peace of mind.**

Water leakage is one of the greatest frustrations for any homeowner. But that's all about to end., Shell **Flintkote** waterproofing system handles it all: roof protection, floor waterproofing, wall damp proofing, and toilet and wet area waterproofing.

Get total, long-lasting protection from water leaks. Get Shell Flintkote.

Shell **Flintkote**
The complete waterproofing solution.

A plus METRO

Website: www.inquirer.net/metro

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Pool champ charged with sexual abuse

Prosecutor finds daughter's allegations 'convincing and credible'

WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE!
A sign at a road improvement project along K1st Street in Quezon City never fails to draw chuckles from passersby and motorists.
ROGER CARPIO

By Margaux C. Ortiz

WORLD POOL CHAMPION RONATO "RONNIE" Alcano was charged yesterday in the Quezon City Regional Trial Court for the alleged sexual abuse of his 14-year-old daughter.

The case was filed after Assistant City Prosecutor Corazon Romano found probable cause to charge Alcano with rape and violation of Section 5 of Republic Act 7610 or the Anti-Child Abuse Law.

Romano recommended a total bail of P400,000 for both charges.

Alcano has denied the allegations. His lawyer Vic Rodriguez said they would file a motion for reconsideration in court.

Citing the complainant's account of the alleged rape, Romano, in her three-page resolution, said no woman in her right mind would admit to having been violated unless she was telling the truth.

She said the complainant "would not concoct a tale repugnant to her virtue and undergo the rigors of public ridicule concerning her very honor."

According to government prosecutor, "the facts narrated by the complainant are convincing and credible and it will be absurd for a daughter (to) accuse her own father of the heinous crime of rape had she not been molested."

In the complaint filed in March, Alcano's daughter alleged the first two incidents of sexual assault happened on Nov. 25, 2006 when she stayed in the house where her father lived with his partner Gwendolyn Mondia.

She alleged Alcano touched her private parts and made lewd gestures in front of her.

The third incident, the girl said, occurred in the first week of December 2006. Alcano allegedly put his hand on her private part while they were lying on the bed with Gwendolyn.

Alcano has denied the charges, saying the girl was only after his money. He filed a perjury case against his daughter and her mother. But Romano found the complainant's account of the incidents more credible.

Rodriguez, who said the case would surely affect his client's performance, said they had 15 days to file the motion for reconsideration in court.

Factory could be in trouble for collapse of annex

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE OWNERS OF A LAS PIÑAS CITY garment factory may be held liable for the partial collapse Wednesday afternoon of their two-story building.

City engineer Rose Bantog told the INQUIRER that although Foremost Star Garments had a building permit for the factory, the collapsed portion—a wooden mezzanine—was not in the original construction plan.

"It was only meant to be an extension of the factory," Bantog said in a phone interview.

The factory was renting the two-story building in a compound on 105 Marcos Alvarez Avenue, Talon Uno, from Vita Realty Corp.

The mezzanine collapsed under the weight of sewing machines, boxes of buttons and cloth at about 3:48 p.m. Wednesday.

Nine employees, mostly seamstresses of the jacket-making factory, were brought to the nearby Las Piñas City Medical Center for minor cuts and wounds.

Cacay Santos, a rescue worker, identified the injured as Li Jin Xing, Flora Subia, Evangeline Santos, Arnel Ravilosa, Imelda Ipra, Anabele Item, Lea Palma, Ryan Medanilla and a certain Charlie.

Bantog said the wooden floor, reportedly made of plyboard, was meant to be temporary in nature but was used as a stock room.

She said they had already suspended the operations of the garment factory while local officials looked into the incident.

Results of the investigation will be submitted to the city's legal office. If found to be negligent, Vita Realty and Foremost Star may face criminal charges.

Meanwhile, Mayor Vergel Aguilar ordered owners of more than 6,000 business establishments in the city to check if their structures conformed to the Building Code.

Aguilar said the City Engineers' Office would also conduct safety inspections of high-rise buildings to prevent incidents similar to that at Foremost Star.

The mayor also reminded business establishments to follow building standards and comply with requirements to avoid the revocation of their licenses.

"We cannot compromise the safety and lives of our people. I urge all our business owners to be responsible," Aguilar said in a statement.

DID YOU KNOW

SPANISH Benedictine monks residing in Manila established in 1901 what came to be known as San Beda College to counteract the influence of public schools established by the American government and Protestant missionaries. Then called Colegio de San Beda, the school for boys opened on June 17, 1901 with 212 students.

To accommodate the growing number of students, the campus was later transferred from the corner of Arlegui and Tanduay Streets to the San Miguel district in Manila. Recently, in 2004, a new campus for elementary and high school students was inaugurated in Taytay, Rizal. The following year, San Beda's sister school in Alabang, Muntinlupa, St. Benedict's College, was renamed San Beda College-Alabang. *Inquirer Research*

Lim: Acting Manila police chief stays

By Allison W. Lopez

MANILA MAYOR ALFREDO LIM SAID Manila Police District acting director Danilo Abarzosa "was doing a good job."

The mayor said he told National Capital Regional Police Office director Reynaldo Varilla the other day that Senior Supt. Abarzosa should not be relieved of his post.

Lim issued the statement following reports that Abarzosa would be reassigned.

"I have said that his performance was good. His men raided the drug den in Intramuros and the drug den on Arlegui in Little Vietnam. So far, he is performing up to par. How can you transfer him when he is doing his duty?," he said.

It was reported that Philippine National Police (PNP) director general Oscar Calderon had announced that Southern Police District (SPD) chief Roberto Rosales would replace Abarzosa, while Senior Supt. Nilo de la Cruz of the NCRPO would take over Rosales' post.

Lim, a former Manila police chief, said he and Varilla already "threshed out" issues relating to Abarzosa, a member of the PNP Academy (PNPA) class 1980.

But the mayor said he did not know if Rosales' reported appointment was in preparation for possible protest actions that might occur when the Sandiganbayan issued its decision on the plunder case against deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Abarzosa admitted there were plans to appoint him director of the PNPA in Silang, Cavite. But he said he had not received the order.

The acting director of the MPD since August 2006 said he was grateful for the mayor's vote of confidence.

In a visit to a barangay in Sta. Mesa yesterday, Abarzosa said Lim told him to initiate a dialogue with fraternity leaders to minimize gang riots in the area.

He said he would propose a sports fest for boys aged 14 to 21 to turn the violent encounters into "friendly" competitions.

Exclusively for SM Advantage members

Pabaon Panalo!
3 MILLION shopping points

SM ADVANTAGE
SAVE & MORE
YELLOW TAG

CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE 145 WINNERS OF
10,000* SHOPPING POINTS each
(Tax exclusive*)

Sonny B. Magdurulang, Alabang	Rhodora B. Abrenica, Batangas	Mamerto G. Boniba, Jaro Iloilo	Jannette L. De Guzman, Manila	Elviza J. Lumapas, North Reclamation Cebu
Wenilinda M. Jatulan, Alabang	Ma. Theresa G. Quinones, Carmen CDO	Josephine C. Lomo, Jaro Iloilo	Melba M. Salas, Manila	Ana Ruby Canete, North Reclamation Cebu
Merle T. Laset, Alabang	Edwina Brenda M. Magallona, Carmen CDO	Arlene A. Lanada, Jaro New	Teodora F. Fronda, Manila	Yvonne L. Cabaron, North Reclamation Cebu
Ma. Victoria I. Dacanay, Alabang	Rufina Michaela C. Salcedo, Carmen CDO	Emerita R. Celendro, Jaro New	Janice Q. Taccad, Marikina	Nonila Villegas, North Reclamation Cebu
Helen Lucero, Alabang	Yasmin E. Andaloc, Carmen CDO	Ma. Corazon D. Geroche, Jaro New	Richard T. Capistrano, Marikina	Jennie G. Mercado, San Fernando Pampanga
Elizabeth G. Victorino, Angono	Elmer C. Alombro, Carmen CDO	Ma. Ninia O. Demegillo, Jaro New	Leila Miralles, Marikina	Angeluz M. Mendoza, San Fernando Pampanga
Sheila B. Magan, Angono	Christopher A. Antinero, Dasmariñas	William Nelson C. So, Jaro New	Miyarwanti Tanco, Marikina	Shiella D. Lava, San Fernando Pampanga
Josephine M. Olarte, Angono	Aurea L. Ubalde, Dasmariñas	Ma. Luisa F. Limbo, Lipa	Teresita O. Lopez, Marikina	Raquella R. Asuncion, San Fernando Pampanga
Antoniette F. Sumalde, Angono	Elizabeth F. Saputil, Dasmariñas	Marisol L. Villaruel, Lipa	Mechariel C. Superales, Matina, Davao	Janette P. Mangulabnan, San Fernando Pampanga
Jose Alex C. Cerna, Angono	Raquel C. Dulce, Dasmariñas	Noel L. De Castro, Lipa	Arjean V. Jumamoy, Matina, Davao	Lhezlie R. Cagiwa, San Lazaro
Angelie Melissa O. Cu, Bacolod	Josephine M. Velasco, Dasmariñas	Graciela U. Macasaet, Lipa	Emmanuel B. Peralta, Matina, Davao	Josephine A. Jimenez, San Lazaro
Rose Anne O. Galindo, Bacolod	Jacqueline A. Ticao, Delgado, Iloilo	Mylene N. Manalo, Lipa	Ma. Theresa G. Acosta, Matina, Davao	Magtanggol A. Navea, San Lazaro
Maura Christina Dormido, Bacolod	Nemia P. Garcia, Delgado, Iloilo	Mylene T. Herrera, Lucena	Rogemin T. Ramos, Matina, Davao	Carlos C. Manuel, San Lazaro
Xerxes Malaga, Bacolod	Susan K. Navigar, Delgado, Iloilo	Rosenda A. Sarmiento, Lucena	Maribeth L. Cajandab, Megamall	Joseph T. Sy, San Lazaro
Virgie S. Virata, Bacolod	Emelisa T. Sanonte, Delgado, Iloilo	Corazon P. Rodil, Lucena	Eugenio L. Dalican, Megamall	Marianne O. Monreal, Southmall Las Piñas
Fleur May F. Mallari, Bacoor Cavite	Ofelia L. Malazarte, Delgado, Iloilo	Cynthia A. Suarez, Lucena	Robell S. Nomorosa, Megamall	Ma. Primrose R. Castillo, Southmall Las Piñas
Susan C. Gabriel, Bacoor Cavite	Pamela S. Rocacolba, Elizabeth Mall Cebu City	Annaliza L. Garana, Lucena	Ariane V. Kim, Megamall	Cheryl Lourdes M. Sindico, Southmall Las Piñas
Emerenciana C. Santillan, Bacoor Cavite	Yelyn S. Bravo, Elizabeth Mall, Cebu City	Primo W. Badilla, Maclan	Alex T. Co, Megamall	Matilde P. Gollaba, Southmall Las Piñas
Sharon R. Alabastro, Bacoor Cavite	Mahleen S. Ygona, Elizabeth Mall, Cebu City	Elvie P. Baring, Maclan	Jacqueline A. Monteclaro, Makati	Mary Jane Maquiling, Southmall Las Piñas
Jennifer S. Largo, Bacoor Cavite	Lourdes A. Barnett, Elizabeth Mall, Cebu City	Fernando M. Alibong, Maclan	Beverly De Los Santos, Makati	Nellie A. Falguera, Sta. Mesa
Ruby Ann N. Sambrana, Baguio	Sergio Y. Tiu, Elizabeth Mall Cebu City	Joyvel S. Garcia, Maclan	Adeline E. Andrade, Makati	Annalee B. Bonganciso, Sta. Mesa
Milfredo Jeromel A. Bumanglag, Baguio	Violeta M. Lopez, Fairview	Mary Joy F. Odango, Maclan	Teresita P. Delfin, New Makati	Angelita Y. Enriquez, Sta. Mesa
Jobert Paul V. Ariola, Baguio	Alicia H. Suga, Fairview	April Lyn J. Opial, Mandurriao, Iloilo	Lolita D. Odchigue, Makati	Amor Nanette M. Santos, Sta. Mesa
Ginalyn V. Resurreccion, Baguio	Stephanie S. Lastimoso, Fairview	Sandra G. Sinco, Mandurriao, Iloilo	Imelda G. Onas, North Edsa	Amihan M. Naig, Sta. Mesa
Elmon R. Paez, Baguio	Maribel L. Pascua, Fairview	Ma. Belinda B. Casquite, Mandurriao, Iloilo	Rosalia M. Santos, North Edsa	Cindy L. Nipolo, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Natividad G. Castillo, Batangas	William Dy, Fairview	Gellyn N. Noynoyan, Mandurriao, Iloilo	Percival R. Rayo, North Edsa	Michelle E. Aguilar, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Heidi B. Sabado, Batangas	Elizer L. Carillo, Jaro Iloilo	Freddie B. Baylas, Mandurriao, Iloilo	Luzviminda M. De Jesus, North Edsa	Teofilo L. Gonzales, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Nelyn L. Moreno, Batangas	Elsa L. Griango, Jaro Iloilo	Rowena C. Cruz, Manila	Elsa T. Crisostomo, North Edsa	Liezl P. Arquinez, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Marissa D. Carino, Batangas	Florceditha I. Caspillo, Jaro Iloilo	Ma. Adora L. Cortes, Manila	Ribolu D. Terru, North Reclamation Cebu	Victor Michael A. Sarza, Sta. Rosa, Laguna

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.2340, Series of 2007.

'Garbage project won't keep environs safe'

By Margaux C. Ortiz

QUEZON CITY'S GARBAGE GAS project is not enough to keep the environment safe.

The Bangon Kalikasan Movement (BKM), a non-government organization, said experts said the city government's plan to convert the Payatas garbage gas into energy would harvest only a minimum fraction of the methane and other toxic and carcinogenic substances from the dump.

Joey Papa, president of Bangon Kalikasan, which has members living in the dump, said most of the gases "would still escape to the atmosphere," contributing to global warming or the rise in the world's average temperatures.

"This is also dangerous to the health of the people in the surroundings," according to Dr. Delia Patawaran of the health support mission organized by BKM for the Payatas Phase II residents last Tuesday, the seventh anniversary of the 2000 Payatas disaster that killed some 1,000 people.

Dr. Patawaran said the residents were vulnerable to the carcinogenic effects of emissions from the site.

According to BKM, the United States-based Grassroots Recycling Network (GRRN) said "most of the gas produced in landfills (or glorified dumps) escapes to the atmosphere even at sites that install gas collection systems."

GRRN reportedly said almost half of the first wave of gas generation occurred before collection systems were installed.

In a 150-page report to the California Air Resources Board, another US expert, Peter Anderson, who was in the country early this year as a resource person at the General Assembly of Eco-Waste Coalition, debunked the much-touted efficiency of the biogas emission reduction technology.

Anderson said there was little data on the amount of escaped gas emissions from landfills.

Papa asked Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. to consider these views and urged the city government to close Payatas and not to open another landfill.

OMB raids yield ₱97M worth of pirated discs

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE OPTICAL MEDIA BOARD seized some P97.27-million worth of pirated music and movie discs, as well as copying equipment, in raids in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

The recent raids were part of the government's continued efforts to get the Philippines off of the United States' watch list of piracy havens.

Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila, an ex-officio member of the OMB, said the agency conducted 224 raids confiscating some 374,00 CDs and DVDs, as well as production paraphernalia.

Last month's OMB operations covered the cities of Manila, Makati, Mandaluyong, Quezon, Caloocan, Muntinlupa, Las Piñas, and Pasig, in Metro Manila; and Antipolo, Cainta and Taytay in Rizal, and Bacoor, Imus and Dasmariñas in Cavite.

Raids were also conducted in Laguna and the cities of Cebu and Lapu-Lapu in the Visayas.

Favila said piracy was a stumbling block to the economic growth of the country.

In May, the Office of the United States Trade Representative announced that the Philippines would remain, for at least another year, in the "lower level watch list, along with 23 other countries where violation of intellectual property (IP) rights remained a significant concern for American IP owners."

The USTR 52-page report, identified Quiapo as notorious for selling counterfeit and pirated items.

Northern Samar Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Brgy. Magsaysay, Bobon, Northern Samar
MOBILE: (09173042872/09173042867)
E-mail: norsamelco_catarman2007@yahoo.com
FAX #: (055)2518163

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The NORTHERN SAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (NORSAMELCO) invites all interested suppliers to participate in a Public Bidding for the following:

Item No.	Description	
1	Supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of one (1) unit Brand New 10 MVA Sub-Station, including MV protection, metering, grounding and others (excluding LV. switch gear)	1 lot

Bid Documents maybe obtained at the office of the PBAC, secretary, during office hours starting **July 17 to August 6, 2007** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php7,000.00. Interested bidders must submit their pre-qualification documents, as follows:

1. Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws
2. SEC or DTI Registration as appropriate
3. BIR VAT Certificate
4. Audited Financial Statement for the current year duly received by the BIR
5. Business Permit for the Current Year
6. List of similar contract awarded (*min. of 5 years*)
7. Technical capabilities to handle the contract

Receipt of Letter of Intent	July 17, 2007
Receipt of pre-qualification documents	July 18-24, 2007
Issuance of Notice of Illegibility	July 24-30, 2007

Sealed proposals from eligible bidders will be received by the PBAC on **September 4, 2007** at 2:00 p.m. at NORSAMELCO main office conference room. A pre-bid conference will be held on **August 7, 2007** at 10:00 a.m. at the same venue.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of cash or manager's check in the amount equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total bid price.

Bidders shall bid for the whole package. Partial bids will be rejected.

This invitation is open to all suppliers from eligible source countries who purchased a complete set of bidding documents, submitted all the pre-qualification documents mentioned in the ADVERTISEMENT and have been duly accredited and notified by the NORTHERN SAMAR Electric Cooperative, Inc.

The NORSAMELCO reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any minor defects or infirmities therein or to accept such bid as maybe considered most advantageous and responsive to the NORSAMELCO.

(Sgd.) SALVADOR HERNANDEZ
General Manager

(Sgd.) NILO ESTOPA
PBAC Chairman

(PDI - July 5, 9 & 13, 2007)

Napocor starts reducing water supply to Metro

THE CONTINUOUS DROP IN THE WATER level of Angat Dam in Bulacan province has prompted the National Power Corp. to reduce the volume of water it supplies to the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) starting yesterday. The dam supplies water to most parts of Metro Manila.

Rodolfo German, general manager of Napocor's Angat River Hydro-Electric Power Plant, said that although rains have poured in many places in the country, there were no heavy rains reported in the Angat area to raise the dam's water level.

But Rodrigo Abinsay, watershed manager of Manila Water Co. Inc. (MWCI), the water concessionaire for the eastern part of Metro Manila, said the decrease would not affect the supply to areas under their firm. The MWCI gets its supply from Ipo Dam, whose reservoir gets water from Angat Dam.

Abinsay said they have enough water reserves to supply 40 percent of Metro Manila residents who rely on their service.

He said water released by the Napocor to the MWSS supplies the requirements of Metro Manila; the water released to NIA benefits farmers in Bulacan and Pampanga. *Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon*

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN

MARIAN PILGRIMAGE
Lourdes and Fatima
with FR. CORSIE LEGASPI as pilgrimage chaplain
on October 8 – 19, 2007
For more details
Please call 8090764 or 8090605
(From 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM)
or Cell Phone No.: 09174110154
Look for Airyn

METROBRIEFS

CA junks GMA 7 petition

THE COURT of Appeals has denied the petition of television network GMA 7 for a temporary restraining order stopping a Pasay City judge from preventing the airing of an episode of the TV show "Imbestigador" about the arrest of a prosecutor for alleged extortion. In a July 2 resolution, the appellate court's Second Division said it saw no reason to issue a TRO for Judge Francisco Mendiola's order temporarily prohibiting, "Imbestigador" host Miguel Enriquez and executive producer Emerito Junie Castillo from airing the episode about the arrest of Pasay prosecutor John Imperial. GMA 7's petition sought to stop Mendiola's June 16 and June 19 TROs on the said episode. "However, we could not find any extreme urgency and or any irreparable injury that cannot be measured by any monetary compensation, which petitioners may suffer, if their prayer for temporary restraining order is not granted," the appellate court said. Mendiola said he issued the TROs because airing the footage would subject Imperial to "public distrust, ridicule and humiliation." *Leila B. Salaverria*

Messenger shot in heist

THREE unidentified motorcycle-riding thieves shot a man yesterday in a heist before noon in Pasig City, leaving the victim seriously injured. Jessie de Vera, a messenger of VSO Group of Companies, sustained a bullet wound in his left chest. Police said the victim had just withdrawn cash from the Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. and was about to park his motorcycle when two suspects grabbed him and announced a heist. After firing at De Vera, the suspects took with them the victim's belt bag containing P61,000, and immediately fled. *Kristine L. Alave*

Home Guaranty Corporation
Office of the President

NOTICE OF SALE

Please be informed that the following properties of the Home Guaranty Corporation are being offered for public bidding:

	PROPERTY LOCATION	TYPE	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	SELLING PRICE	REMARKS
1	B9, L6, Villa Milagrosa Townhomes, San Pedro, Laguna	townhouse	41.00 sqm	38 sqm	480,260.00	Vacant
2	B6, L10 Villa Milagrosa Townhomes, San Pedro, Laguna	townhouse	41.00 sqm	30 sqm	480,260.00	Vacant
3	B1, L28 Villa Milagrosa Townhomes, San Pedro, Laguna	townhouse	46.25 sqm	43 sqm	545,050.00	Vacant
4	B6, L31 Villa Pozorubio Subdivision, Pangasinan	single detached	25.00 sqm	80 sqm	224,400.00	Vacant

FOR INTERESTED PARTIES, PLEASE CALL HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION AT 896-04-25, 897-31-49 OR VISIT OUR HEAD OFFICE AT JADE BLDG. NO. 335 SEN. GIL PUYAT AVENUE, MAKATI CITY.

(Sgd.) RAFAEL P. DE LOS SANTOS
VICE PRESIDENT
Asset Management and Disposition Group

(PDI – July 13, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Negros Oriental
CITY OF BAYAWAN
SPECIALIZED BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
www.bayawancity.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The City Government fo Bayawan, through its Specialized Bids and Awards Committee, invites prospective suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid:

Bid Number	Name of Project/s	Approved Budget for the Contract	Source of Fund
07-119B	Deformed Bars for the Construction of GK Socialized Housing, Scheme II-320 units (re-ad item)	P2,200,000.00	General Fund

Project Location/Delivery Area : Bayawan City Warehouse
Contract Duration : 12 working days upon receipt of Purchase Order

The complete schedules of bidding activities are as follows:

ACTIVITY	DATE/S
Advertisement/Posting of the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid	July 13, 2007
Issuance of Bid Documents	July 13, 2007
Deadline for the submission & opening of Eligibility Requirements (for Non-Accredited Suppliers) & LOI for Accredited Suppliers (Specialized BAC Office)	July 20, 2007 (9:00 a.m.)
Deadline/Opening of Bids (Specialized BAC Office)	July 20, 2007 (10:00 a.m.)

Complete sets of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Documents will be available for issuance at the Specialized BAC Office, 2nd Floor, City Hall Bldg., Bayawan City (Tel. (035) 531-0800) upon payment of the prescribed non-refundable fee.

Prospective Bidders shall duly accomplish eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals and submit the same in 2 (two) separate sealed envelopes on or before the date indicated above.

The Specialized Bids and Awards Committee reserves the right to accept or reject all bids or part thereof, to waive formality therein or to accept such bids considered most advantageous to the City Government of Bayawan.

(Sgd.) PANCHO F. VILLASIS
Chairman, Specialized Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - July 13, 2007)

SO THE PEOPLE WILL KNOW ABOUT THE "GRANDMOTHER OF ALL HIGHWAY ROBBERIES"

1. A compromise agreement between Radstock Securities and PNCC for 6 Billion pesos is signed when the actual value of the ceded properties and royalties is about 17 Billion pesos.

   1.1 PNCC did not want to wait for a resolution on the merits even if its own government lawyer said it had a 50/50 chance to win.

   1.2 What it would lose if it fought, it gave away without a fight practically all of its assets.

   1.3 This odious agreement leaves the National Government (NG) without recourse to collect the debt of PNCC amounting to billions that is recognized by PNCC itself.

2. Radstock won the case on the basis of a Board Resolution issued by PNCC by Attys. Raymundo Francisco and Chairman Renato Valdecantos of the Asset Privatization Trust under ERAP.

   2.1 The Board of PNCC (formerly CDCP) recognized an obligation to Marubeni, which was not carried in the books of PNCC because the latter never considered it an obligation of PNCC as advised by COA and the OGCC.

   2.2 The Board Resolution passed was not ratified and was voided by a subsequent Board Resolution after ERAP was ousted.

   2.3 The unratified Board Resolution was presented to the RTC of Mandaluyong which rendered a decision against PNCC in the amount of around Thirteen (13) billion pesos.

   2.4 The Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC) which so bravely fought the seemingly stacked case against PNCC in the RTC suddenly supports a compromise agreement that deprives PNCC of practically all of its assets.

   2.5 The head of OGCC was promoted to the post of Solicitor General.

3. The compromise agreement was approved in the Court of Appeals (CA) after the Supreme Court (SC) rejected the request of PNCC and Radstock to approve the compromise. The Supreme Court had remanded the case to the Court of Appeals.

4. The matter has been brought to the Supreme Court which resolved to issue a "status quo ante order" restraining the CA from implementing the compromise agreement. The order thus states:

   "Now therefore, you (respondents), your officers, agents, representatives, and/or persons acting upon your orders or, in your place or stead, are hereby directed to maintain the STATUS QUO ANTE the filing of the petition assailing: (a) the decision dated 25 January 2007 of the Court of Appeals in CA GR CV No. 57971 entitled "Radstock Securities Limited, etc. vs Philippine National Construction Corporation" approving the Compromise Agreement between (PNCC) and Radstock Securities Limited; and (b) the resolution dated 31 May 2007 in the same case, denying the motions for reconsideration of Strategic Alliance Development Corporation and Rodolfo M. Cuenca effective as of this date and continuing until further orders from this Court."

5. The concerned citizens herein thank the SC and invite all other concerned taxpayers to join in this battle against what is truly the "Grandmother of all Highway Robberies."

CONCERNED TAXPAYERS

Paid Advertisement

US finds that China not the only source of imported tainted food

NEW YORK—BLACK PEPPER WITH salmonella from India. Crabmeat from Mexico that is too filthy to eat. Candy from Denmark that is mislabeled.

At a time when Chinese imports are under fire for being contaminated or defective, federal records suggest that China is not the only country that has problems with its exports.

In fact, US inspectors have stopped more food shipments from India and Mexico in the last year than they have from China, an analysis of data maintained by the Food and Drug Administration shows.

And despite China's much-publicized problems with contaminated seafood, US inspectors refused produce from the Dominican Republic and candy from Denmark more often.

Produce from the Dominican Republic was stopped 817 times last year, usually for containing traces of illegal pesticides. Candy from Denmark was impounded 520 times. Chinese seafood was stopped at the border 391 times during the last year.

"This is not a single-country issue," said Carl R. Nielsen, who resigned from the FDA in 2005, after 28 years. His last job was director of the agency's Office of Regulatory Affairs Division of Import Operations and Policy. "What we are experiencing is massive globalization," he said.

The FDA database does not necessarily capture a full and accurate picture of product quality from other countries. Only one year of data is available on the agency's website. The FDA inspects only about 1 percent of the imports that fall under its jurisdiction. So the agency may miss many of the products that are contaminated or defective.

The FDA database also fails to disclose the quantity of products that are refused, so it is impossible to know whether just a box of cucumbers was refused or a shipload.

In cases of recurrent problems, the FDA may issue an import alert, which leads to additional scrutiny at the border. Last month, for instance, the FDA issued not only the import alert for the Chinese fish, but also import alerts for Mexican cantaloupes and basmati rice from India.

Critics say the FDA has not changed to deal with the flood of imports as trade agreements have opened up borders to products from across the globe.

Nancy M. Childs, a professor of food marketing at St. Joseph University, said: "As long as we are pushing for the lowest price all the time, driving our supply chain, you get more efficient. But at a certain point, there is no more efficiency, and you sacrifice quality."

NYT

LADY BIRD JOHNSON; 94
Lady Bird Johnson posing in front of the White House in Washington in this Oct. 20, 1967 photo. The former first lady who championed conservation and worked tenaciously for the political career of her husband, former President Lyndon B. Johnson, died on July 11. She was 94. AP

WORLDBRIEFS

Guards steal $282 million from a bank in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Iraq—In an astonishing heist, guards at a bank here made off with more than a quarter-billion dollars on Wednesday, according to an official at the Interior Ministry. The robbery of $282 million from the Dar Es Salaam bank, a private financial institution, raised more questions than it answered, and officials were tight-lipped about the crime. The local police said two guards engineered the robbery, but an official at the Interior Ministry said three guards were involved. Both confirmed that the stolen money was in American dollars, not Iraqi dinars. It was unclear why the bank had that much money on hand in dollars, or how the robbers managed to move such a large amount without being detected. Several officials speculated that the robbers had connections to the militias, because it would be difficult for them to move without being searched through many checkpoints in Baghdad.

NYT

Lebanese Army pounds Islamist siege camp

NAHR AL-BARED, Lebanon—Lebanese heavy artillery pounded a refugee camp from daybreak on Thursday in what could signal the start of a massive final assault against al-Qaida-inspired Islamist fighters holed up there for weeks. Vast clouds of black smoke billowed into the sky over the Nahr al-Bared camp, as shells slammed relentlessly into the ruins of the shantytown where Fatah al-Islam militiamen have been locked in a deadly standoff with the Army since May 20. "Today's bombardment is a first step in the final battle against the terrorist group whose fighters have refused to surrender to the Army," an Army officer at the scene said. As the battle raged, two soldiers fell in an ambush by Sunni Muslim gunmen on the edge of the southern part of Nahr al-Bared, a medical source said. Their deaths brought to 176 the number of people killed, including 88 soldiers and at least 68 Islamists, since the fighting at Nahr al-Bared and the neighboring Mediterranean port city of Tripoli first broke out.

AFP

Libya high court backs HIV case death penalty

THE LIBYAN Supreme Court Wednesday once again upheld the death sentences imposed on five Bulgarian nurses and a Palestinian doctor who were accused of intentionally infecting more than 400 Libyan children with the AIDS virus in 1998. The court rejected the results of a 2003 investigation by two of the world's leading AIDS experts, which found that unsanitary medical conditions at Benghazi Children's Hospital were to blame for the children becoming infected with HIV. The nurses and doctor have now been in jail for nearly a decade. Still, their fate remained uncertain Wednesday, despite the court's ruling on the one hand, and months of recent negotiations to secure their release on the other. The European Union and the United States have repeatedly pressed the Libyan government to free the six, and groups of Nobel laureates have visited Tripoli to plead their case with the Libyan leader, Moammar Gadhafi. Another Libyan legal body, the Supreme Judicial Council, is scheduled to meet on Monday, and could overturn Wednesday's court ruling or reduce the sentences for the six.

NYT

Dubai seeks to thwart camel jockey lawsuit in US

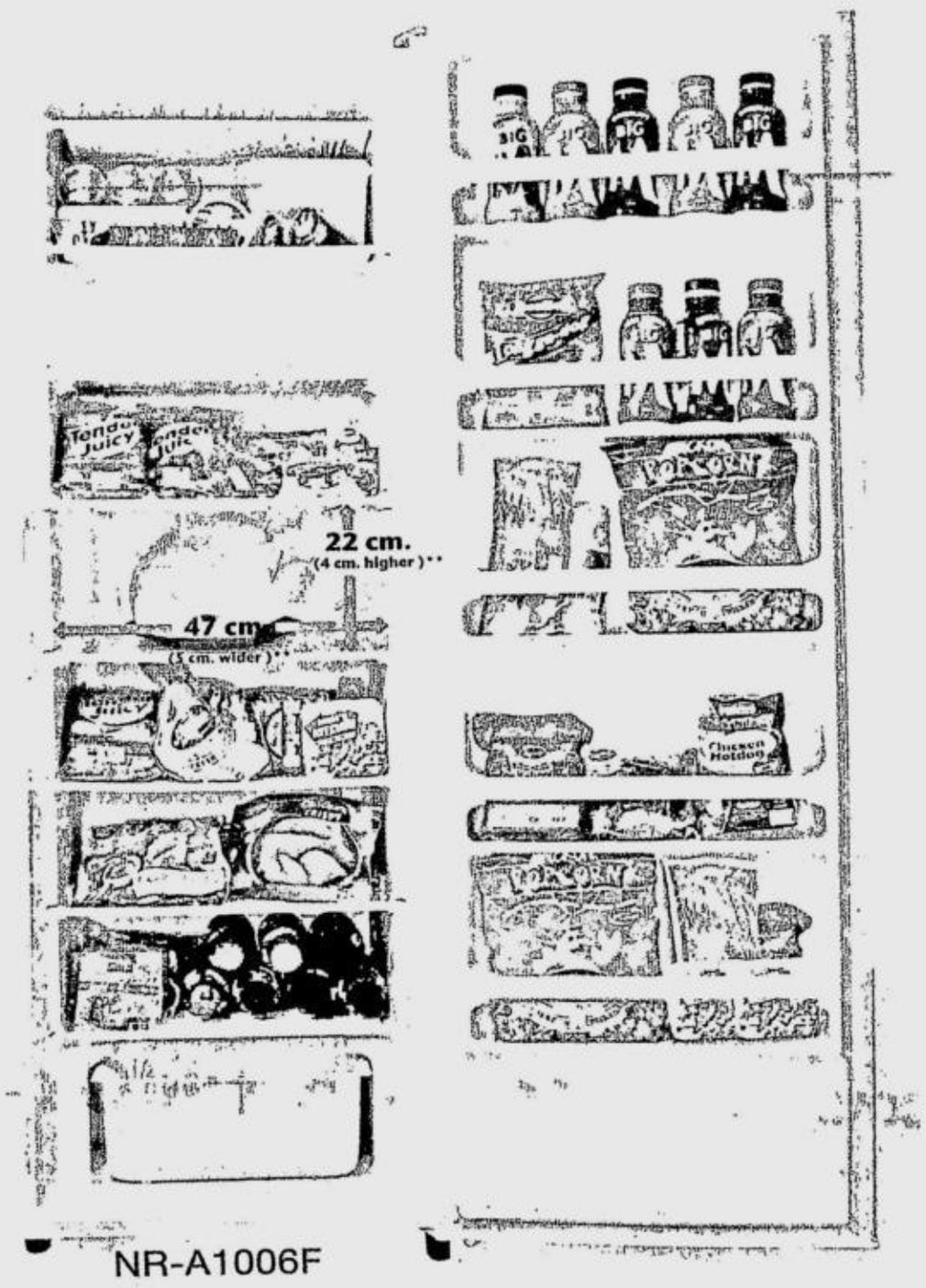
DUBAI—Lawyers for Dubai's ruler plan to nip in the bud a child-abuse lawsuit at a hearing in Florida on Monday, hoping to ward off a trial that could dent the glittering image of the Gulf emirate. Not leaving anything to chance, Sheikh Mohammad bin Rashed al-Maktoum, architect of Dubai's boom, has even sought US President George W. Bush's help in having the suit dismissed. The plaintiffs, an unnamed group of parents of child jockeys, allege that in the past three decades Sheikh Mohammad enslaved up to 30,000 children, some as young as two, after they had been taken from their families in Bangladesh, Mauritania, Pakistan and Sudan for use as camel jockeys in the UAE. "We believe we have strong grounds for a dismissal" when the Miami court hears arguments for throwing out the suit on July 16, said Habib al-Mulla, who represents Sheikh Mohammad and his brother, Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashed al-Maktoum, also named as a defendant in the case.

AFP

Panasonic
ideas for life

40 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

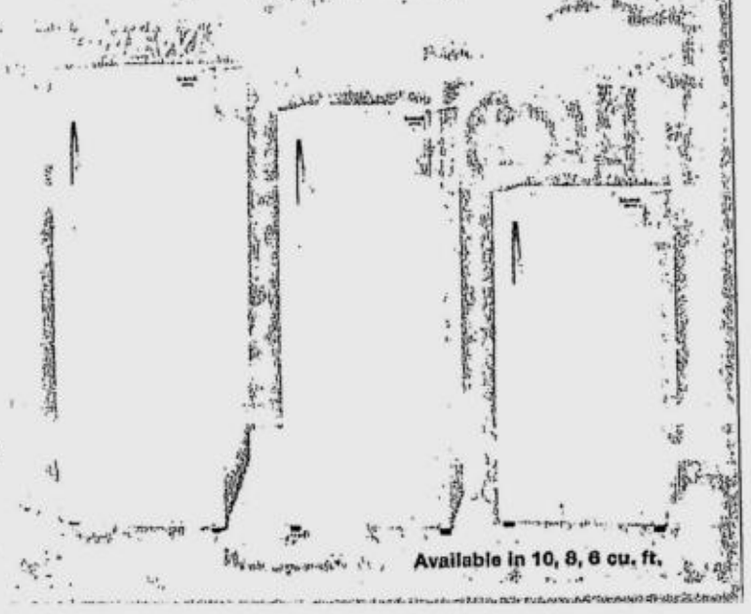
THINK
BIGGER
freezing capacity with the new 10 cu.ft. Freezer



NR-A1006F

The NEW PANASONIC 10 cu.ft. FREEZER
Now **BIGGER** and Cools **MORE** than you can IMAGINE.

The New Panasonic Freezer offers a bigger 10 cu.ft. capacity with taller and wider shelves that can store even large-size food items and a quick freezing capability that allows you to produce over 100 ice bags a day. When you need maximum storage room for your frozen goods, nothing else fits but the Panasonic Freezer.



Philippines' No.1 Manufacturer of Refs & Freezers
From the country's No.1 manufacturer of Refs & Freezers

@100
Can freeze over 100 ice bags per day

Bigger capacity and taller, wider shelves even a TURKEY FITS

Efficient cooling system through All Rollbond Evaporator Shelves

Available in 10, 8, 6 cu. ft.

www.panasonic.com.ph

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Al-Qaida strong as ever, says US intel

WASHINGTON—US INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS have concluded al-Qaida has rebuilt its operating capability to a level not seen since just before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, The Associated Press has learned.

The conclusion suggests that the network that launched the most devastating terror attack on the United States has been able to regroup along the Afghan-Pakistani border despite nearly six years of bombings, war and other tactics aimed at crippling it.

Still, numerous government officials say they know of no specific, credible threat of a new attack on US soil.

A counterterrorism official familiar with a five-page summary of the new government threat assessment called it a stark appraisal to be discussed at the White House on Thursday as part of a broader meeting on an upcoming National Intelligence Estimate.

The official and others spoke on condition of anonymity because the secret report remains classified.

Counterterrorism analysts produced the document, titled "Al-Qaida better positioned to strike the West." The document focuses on the terror group's safe haven in Pakistan and makes a range of observations about the threat posed to the United States and its allies, officials said.

Al-Qaida is "considerably operationally stronger than a year ago" and has "regrouped to an extent not seen since 2001," the official said, paraphrasing the report's conclusions. "They are showing greater and greater ability to plan attacks in Europe and the United States."

The group also has created "the most robust training program since 2001, with an interest in using European operatives," the official quoted the report as saying.

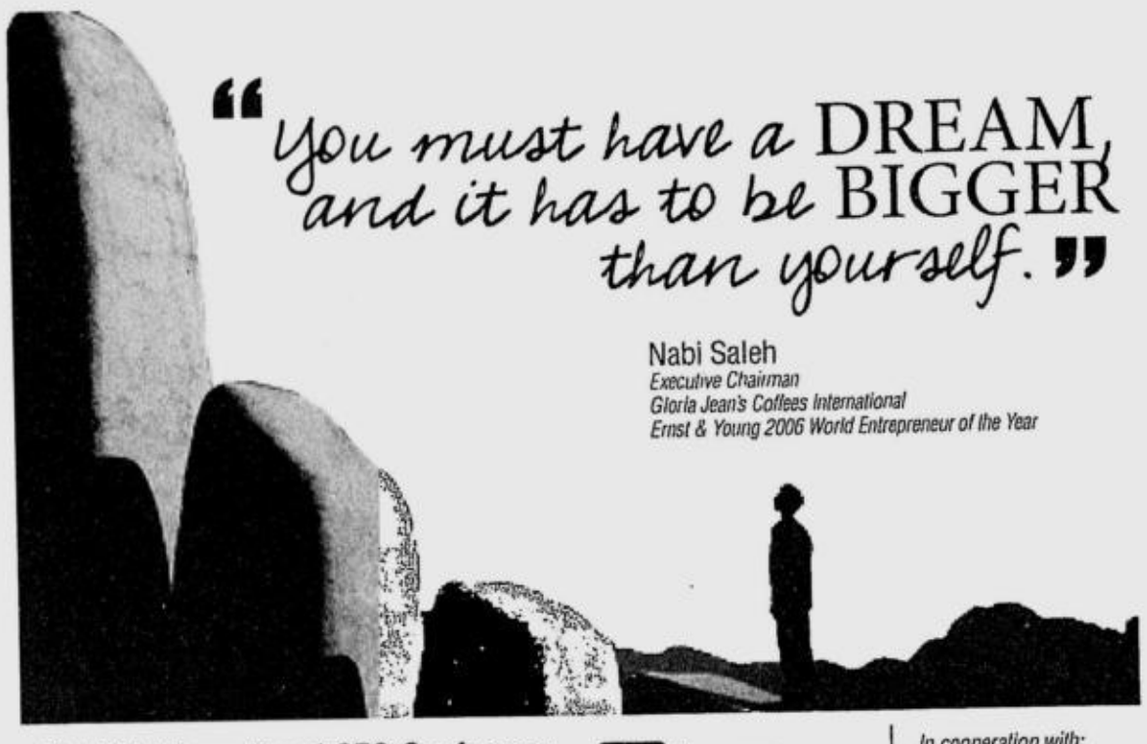
At the same time, this official said, the report speaks of "significant gaps in intelligence" so US authorities may be ignorant of potential or planned attacks.

John Kringen, who heads the CIA's analysis directorate, echoed the concerns about al-Qaida's resurgence during testimony and conversations with reporters at a House Armed Services Committee hearing on Wednesday.

"They seem to be fairly well settled into the safe haven and the ungoverned spaces of Pakistan," Kringen testified. "We see more training. We see more money. We see more communications. We see that activity rising."

The threat assessment comes as the 16 US intelligence agencies prepare a National Intelligence Estimate focusing on threats to the United States. A senior intelligence official, who spoke on condition of anonymity while the high-level analysis was being finalized, said the document has been in the works for roughly two years.

Kringen and aides to National Intelligence Director Mike McConnell would not comment on the details of that analysis. "Preparation of the estimate is not a response to any specific threat," McConnell's spokesperson Ross Feinstein said, adding that it would probably be ready for distribution this summer. *AP*



6th MAP International CEO Conference

Strong Vision, Bold Decisions

Management Association of the Philippines
The Philippines' Leading Management Organization

Responding to Emergent Global Challenges

CONNECTING PEOPLE — Christina Gold
BUILDING ON A DREAM — Nabi Saleh
CONTINUING A TRADITION OF INNOVATION — David Miller
OPENING UP THE OFFICE, EXPLORING THE BUSINESS — Toshio Arima
SCANNING THE GLOBE FOR STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES — Dr. Frederic Neumann
EXPLORING SCENARIOS FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT — Eliseo Santiago
CASHING IN ON THE CHIPS — Arthur Tan
STAYING FOCUSED ON FUNDAMENTALS — Renato de Guzman
BANKING ON A VISION — Piti Sithi-Amnuai
SURVIVING THE SQUEEZE, INVESTING IN THE FUTURE — Jose Isidro Camacho
INNOVATING – WITH A HEART — Dr. Devi Prasad Shetty
SOURCING SYNERGIES — Tom Weakland
EXPANDING HORIZONS, SOARING IN THE OPEN SKIES — Tony Fernandes

2 to 3 October 2007
Rizal Ballroom, Makati Shangri-La
Register online: www.mapceoconference.com
For inquiries, call the MAP Secretariat at 751.1149 to 52.

In cooperation with:
BusinessWorld
Platinum Sponsor
ING PRIVATE BANKING
Diamond Sponsor
INQUIRER
Gold Sponsors
SMART
Yehey!
Silver Sponsors
CGKformaprint, Inc.
Bronze Sponsor
METROBANK
Session Sponsors
eBiz
INSULAR LIFE

Mosque crisis enrages extremists, but may strengthen Pakistan leader

By Stephen Graham

MUSHARRAF AFP

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN—President Pervez Musharraf's decision to have the Army storm the Red Mosque may strengthen the US-allied leader's hand among Pakistanis dismayed at how Islamic militants used the holy site as a fortress.

It also has pushed a fight over his bungled attempt to fire the country's top judge out of a harsh media spotlight and prompted a fresh show of support from Washington.

However, the general has given extremist enemies who have repeatedly tried to assassinate him a new cause to rally around, raising the prospect of surging violence as Pakistan heads toward elections and he seeks another five years in power.

Al-Qaida's deputy leader, Ayman al-Zawahri, became the latest to demand revenge against Musharraf over the battle, issuing a video Wednesday urging Pakistanis to wage holy war against their government.

"The big question mark now is what is going to be the reaction of the Islamists," said Shaun Gregory, head of Bradford University's Pakistan Security Research Unit in Britain.

While the assault avoided the bloodbath the government had feared, several radical clerics and militant leaders are calling for attacks on Musharraf's government and security forces, insisting the troops slaughtered innocent students and defiled the Lal Masjid, or Red Mosque.

A string of attacks since the mosque siege began July 3 has hit at government targets in Pakistan's northwest, where many people are sympathetic to the hardline Islam of the Taliban. At least 30 people died, including 17 soldiers and policemen.

Mansoor Dadullah, a senior commander of Taliban fighters in neighboring Afghanistan, on Wednesday called for suicide attacks on Pakistani security forces.

Still, the siege could blunt an opposition drive against Musharraf's plan to ask lawmakers for a new five-year term this fall without first giving up his post as Army chief.

Images of troops surrounding the white-domed Red Mosque to a soundtrack of explosions and gunfire overshadowed a weekend meeting of 60 opposition parties in London designed to coordinate their campaign against Musharraf, who seized power in a 1999 coup.

It also diverted attention from Musharraf's attempt to fire the Supreme Court chief justice, a misstep that set off a broader democracy movement and alienated some of the leader's own supporters.

Benazir Bhutto, the former prime minister and opposition leader expected by many to return from exile and join Musharraf in a power-sharing deal after year-end general elections, praised him for taking a tough line on the Red Mosque.

"I'm glad there was no ceasefire with the militants in the mosque because ceasefires simply embolden the militants," she told Britain's Sky TV on Tuesday. "There will be a backlash, but at some time we have to stop appeasing the militants."

Pakistan's mainstream, liberal newspapers also backed the assault, though ordinary citizens appeared less enthusiastic.

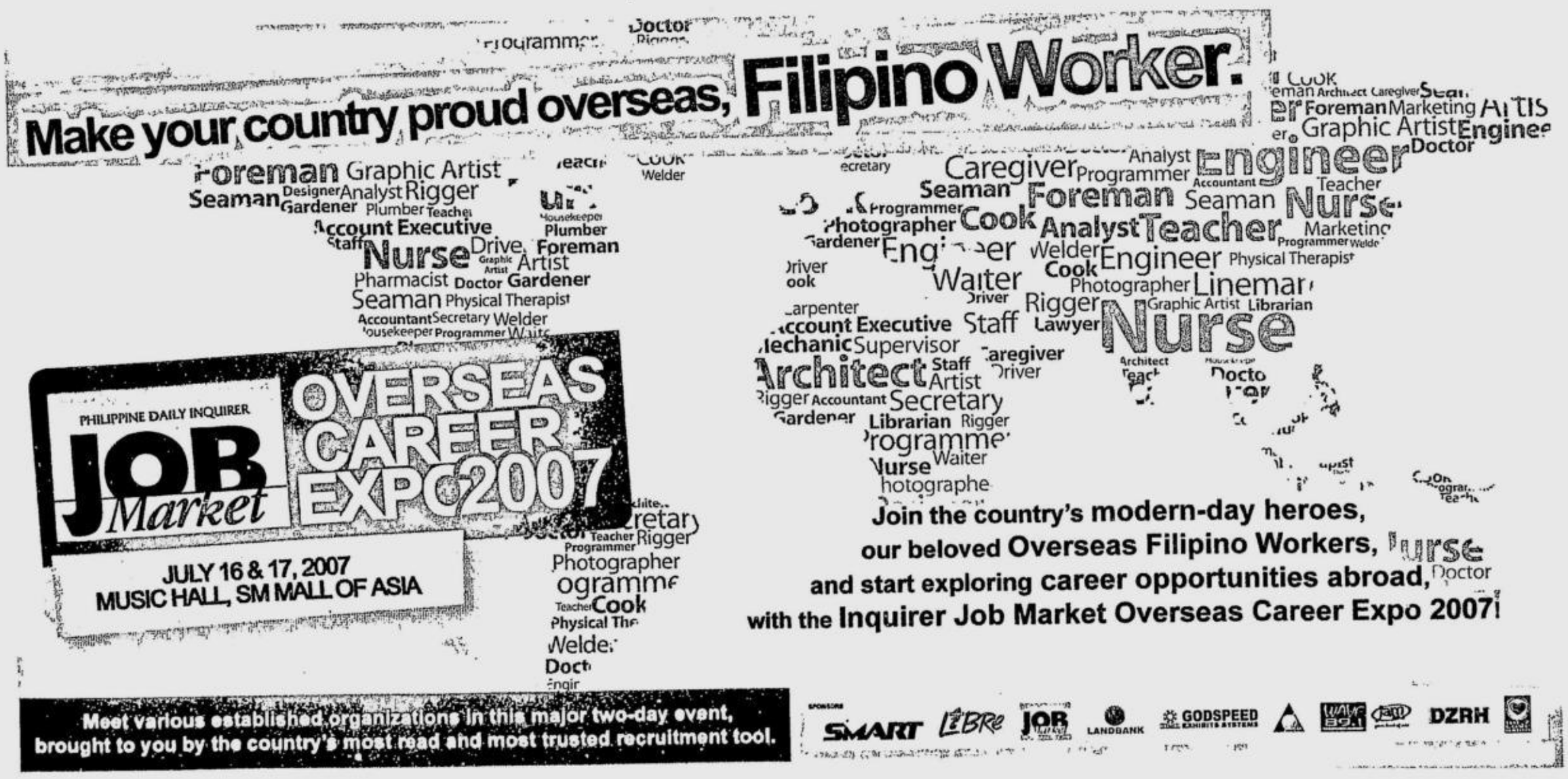
Several people interviewed by AP sympathized with some of the clerics' professed goals, especially closing down alleged brothels in Pakistan's relatively Westernized capital.

But they also criticized the mosque leaders' increasingly aggressive antivice campaign, which included kidnapping alleged Chinese prostitutes, and their stockpiling of weapons and ammunition at the holy site and an adjoining madrasa, or religious school, for girls.

"Musharraf's government did this to please America," Murtaza Khan, a 55-year-old shopkeeper in Peshawar, said of the Army assault at the mosque.

But then he added: "This incident also shows that there should be checks on the madrasas. If something like this is going on in any madrasa, action can be taken in time."

Ikram Sehgal, a Pakistani political analyst, said that sentiment could help Musharraf broaden public support for cracking down on violent Islamic radicalism. The siege "has woken up people in Pakistan who were generally favorable to the Taliban and to the clerics," Sehgal said. *AP*



WHAT'S INSIDE

Magic welcome Lewis with $118M contract /A30

SPORTS

Website: www.inquirer.net/sports

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres** *Assistant Editor* **Francis T. J. Ochoa**

Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

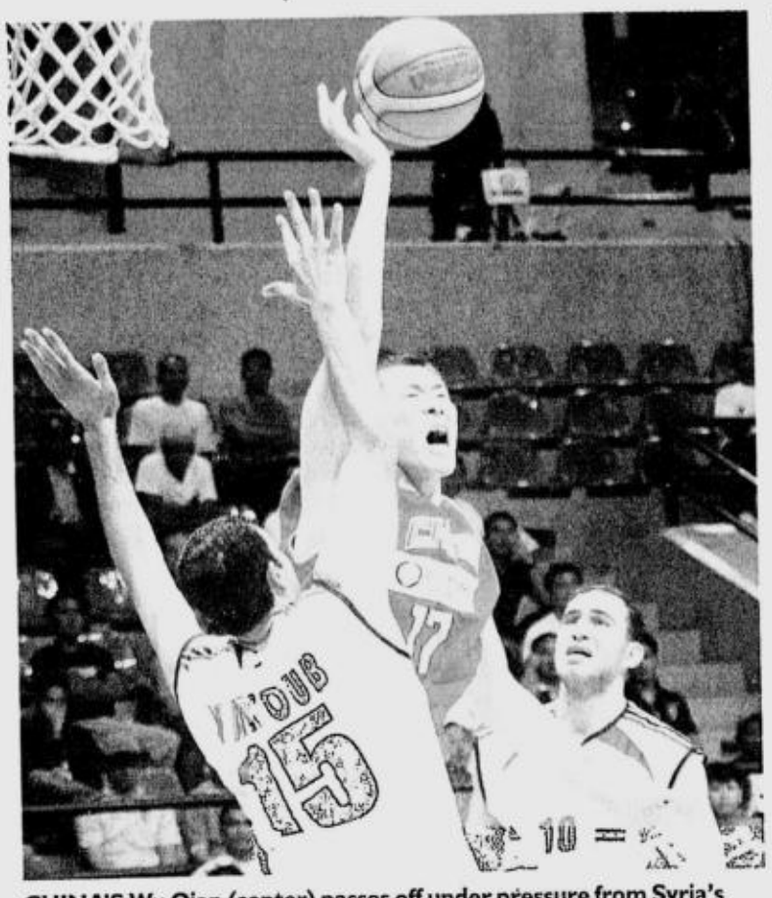
E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Agad-agad! Puwedeng hulugan ng up to 6 months pa! Simpleng Kausap! car insurance

CALL 88-725-88

Cebu Office: (032)234-0808 Toll Free 1-800-1888-LINK(5465)

China 'B' five turns back Syria



CHINA'S Wu Qian (center) passes off under pressure from Syria's Wissam Yakoub (left). At right is Shadi Labes. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

By Francis Ochoa

A TALL AND ATHLETIC "B" SQUAD FROM CHINA TOOK TWO quarters to warm up before turning back a hard-fighting Syrian crew, 98-94, last night at the start of the Smart 4-Nation Manila Invitational basketball championship at The Arena in San Juan.

Veteran Yi Li, a willowy but athletic swingman who could easily turn out to be the most dominant player in this tournament, fired 30 points, including five bunched in a 22-second stretch that defused a scorching rally by the Syrians.

Zhang Kai had 15 points and 11 boards off the bench for China, which could not get any semblance of a rhythm going in the first two periods of the match.

"They look more like a youth squad than the Team B of China," said RP coaching staff member Jong Uichico of Barangay Ginebra in the PBA. Uichico was doing scouting work for the San Miguel-RP squad that was playing Lebanon at press time *(See related story on A22)*.

"But you can already see how good and athletic they are," added Uichico.

The Chinese, struggling to contain burly Syrian guards Eduardo Farhat and Michael Madanly in the first period, fell behind several times and were down 25-28 after 10 minutes.

China, coached by Asian legend Adiljian, took control—albeit loosely—in the second period before Yi went on a second-half tear.

After scoring 11 points in the third, Yi knocked in five points, blocked a shot and dished out an assist in a two-minute span where China detonated a 10-0 bomb and took an 87-71 lead in the fourth.

It should have been over by then.

But Syria turned to Madanly and Rami Alkatib in a rally capped by Alkatib's three-point play that knotted the count at 92, 2:34 to play.

The 27-year-old Yi, a veteran in the youth-oriented China squad, cooled the comeback with a three-point play and two free throws for a 97-92 spread, 1:51 to play.

Syria was led by the 26 points, seven rebounds and five assists of Madanly and the 17 of Fahat.

The game was followed by brief opening ceremonies graced by PBA commissioner Noli Eala and Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas executive director Patrick Gregorio.

The scores:

CHINA 98—Yi 30, Zhang K. 15, Han 13, Zhang Q. 10, Gu 9, Li 8, Blam 8, Wang B. 3, Wu 2, Wang Y. 0, Chen 0, Yang 0.

SYRIA 94—Madanly 26, Farhat 17, Correa 13, Yakoub 12, Alkatib 8, Abd Allah 7, Alsaman 7, Labes 4, Hadad 0.

Quarters: 25-28, 45-44, 77-71, 98-94

DAD'S SUSTAGEN PREMIUM HOOP CAMP

TOBY'S THREE-POINT SHOOT OUT

SKYWALKER'S BASKETBALL CAMP

A FREE camp for dads and kids, let SAMBOY LIM and his team teach you the moves that made him one of the PBA's 25 Greatest Players.

July 22, Adidas Sports Kamp

Registration starts at 7am or call 531-7554 or 0916-4987046 to pre-register.

A special treat for dads

FREE SHOOT-OUT

PRESENT THIS AD AT SELECTED TOBY'S BRANCHES (GLORIETTA 2, ALABANG TOWN CENTER, SM MALL OF ASIA, SM MOLINO, SM NORTH EDSA)

EXCITING PRIZES AWAIT WEEKLY WINNERS!

Everyone's getting Sun Group Plans so get one now.

3 lines. 3 phones for only P999 a month!

- Only one person needs to subscribe to get all the lines.***
- Choose any three from these handsets:

Sony Ericsson K310i, Nokia 2310, LG KG220, Philips S660, Nokia 2610

Visit The Sun Shop and get a postpaid line now!

When applying for your postpaid line, simply bring a valid I.D. and latest competitor bill equivalent to or of higher value than the plan being applied for. If competitor bill is not available, bring proof of billing and proof of income.

* When enrolled in 24/7 Call & Text Unlimited.
** For local Sun-to-Sun calls and texts only.
*** 24-month holding period.

YOUR CHOICE OF HANDSETS

Sony Ericsson K310i Camera Phone · Video Recording MP3 Player | Nokia 2310 Color Display with FM Radio | LG KG220 Camera Phone with multi-shot feature | Philips S660 Camera Phone MP3 Player | Nokia 2610 MMS E-mail Capable

Also available:
SUN GROUP PLAN 699
Your choice of handsets:
Nokia 1112
Philips S220
LG KG271

- Daylite Call & Text Unlimited** discounted at P233/subscriber monthly
- Plus 300 FREE texts

The Sun Shops : **Metro Manila** | Tiaong Mall | Greenhills Shopping Center | Shangri-La Plaza Mall | Robinsons Galleria | Robinsons Metroeast | Robinsons Pioneer | Burke Plaza | Robinsons Place Manila | SM Centerpoint | SM City Fairview | SM City Manila | SM City San Lazaro Park Square Makati | Festival Mall Filinvest | SM Bicutan | SM Mall of Asia | SM Megamall | SM Southmall | **North Luzon** | Robinsons Angeles | Robinsons Starmills Pampanga | SM Baguio | SM Clark | SM Marilao | SM North Edsa | SM Valenzuela **South Luzon** | Robinsons Place Dasmariñas | Robinsons Imus | Robinsons Lipa | Robinsons Sta. Rosa | SM Bacoor | SM Batangas | SM Lucena | SM Molino | **Visayas** | Ayala Center Cebu | Robinsons Place Bacolod | Robinsons Place Cebu Robinsons Place Iloilo | SM City Cebu | **Mindanao** | Gaisano Davao | Robinsons Cagayan de Oro | SM City Davao

Hotline: 395-8000 www.suncellular.com.ph

SUN CELLULAR
Better network, better value.

Call for Entries!

ART PETRON Fuel Creativity
7th National Student Art Competition

ALAY SA PALATANDAANG BAYAN
Painting and Photography Competition

This year's theme features landmarks such as lighthouses, bridges, monuments, parks, town halls and other historic places that have existed for over 50 years.

PETRON Fuel Success

For more details, log on www.artpetron.com
Submission deadline : July 26 - Bulk Plants & Aug. 2 - Project Secretariat

Inspired Pals seek 2-victory lead over Aces

AFTER WINNING Game 1, Alaska Aces coach Tim Cone talked about not wanting to play in a "ping pong" series.

GAME TODAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
7:30 p.m.—Alaska vs Talk 'N Text

His problem now, at the rate Talk 'N Text played the last two games of the PBA Fiesta Cup title playoffs, is that he may never see the ball get to his side of the court again.

The Phone Pals, who flaunted complete control in Game 2, then won the next game, 95-87, on Wednesday by coming back from 23 points down, shoot for a 3-1 lead against the befuddled Aces at 7 tonight at the Araneta Coliseum.

They enter Game 4 as the logical favorite.

"I never really had a doubt that we could do it (come from behind)," Talk 'N Text coach Derrick Pumaren said. "I know what this team is capable of doing and I am very proud of the boys for showing their character."

Twenty-four of the last 35 teams to win a Game 3 in a best-of-seven series after a 1-1 tie have gone on to bag the title. But only half of the last eight, six of the last 11, and seven of the last 13 have gone on to win with that edge.

"There's no turning point (in the series) yet," Pumaren said. "We still have to come out there and match their intensity and play the way we are capable of playing."

The Talk 'N Text defense took the Aces out of their sweet spots on Wednesday night, as it held Alaska to just 12 third-quarter points and to just four markers for almost the first five minutes of the fourth period.

Rosell Ellis, who won the Best Import award earlier, was held to just three points in the second half after shooting 19 in the first two periods.

"We played too much one-on-one basketball," Cone said after the loss, one of the most remarkable in the history of the Finals. "This is not over. Not by a long shot. We will come back from this loss and even the series."

JJ Sullinger and Mac Cardona were again at the forefront of the Talk 'N Text rally, with Sullinger shooting 12 of his 30 in the third period.

And it is no secret that the Phone Pals will go to Cardona, the Player of the Conference who finished with 20 points and is averaging 21 for the series.

But Cone can't seem to find anyone who can truly put the clamp on the former La Salle ace.

Willie Miller was the only consistent bright spot for Cone in Game 3 as Ellis and Mike Cortez were effectively shut down in the second half.

Sonny Thoss and Reynel Hugnatan will have to dominate inside if the Aces want to entertain thoughts of not falling into a 3-1 hole, one which only two of 35 teams have ever climbed out of.

Musong R. Castillo

UNIVERSITY of the East standout Mark Borboran drives off National University's Edwin Asoro in yesterday's game. INQUIRER PHOTO/ RYAN LIM

Condes rises to No. 3 over WBC champ

CONDES

NEWLY CROWNED IBF mini flyweight champion Florante Condes has been installed No. 3 in his division by Ring Magazine following his hard-earned split decision victory over Muhammad Rachman on July 7 in Jakarta.

Condes overtook WBC champ Eagle Kyowa, who is in fourth place, and Rachman, who tumbled down to No. 5.

The magazine rates WBO champ Ivan Calderon as No. 1 followed by No. 2 Yutaka Niida, who holds the WBA title.

With Calderon now planning to move up in weight, a battle between Condes and Niida will most likely produce the new Ring Magazine and people's champion in the 105-lb division.

But manager Aljoe Jaro said Condes' next fight will most likely be a rematch with Rachman in Indonesia, if the promoters can raise Condes' asking price of $150,000 for his initial defense.

Otherwise, Jaro said the plan is to put Condes in a choice defense in the Philippines possibly against a Panamanian.

A group is reportedly ready to fund a Condes' title defense in the country, Jaro added.

Meanwhile, Condes will take a 15-day break to take care of his ailing mother Juanita, before returning to the gym to keep himself in shape.

The fighter from Romblon and his manager are planning to hold a victory party on Sunday, where they will invite all boxers for a get-together.

Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor

Warriors, Eagles triumph, share UAAP top spot

By Jasmine W. Payo

UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST PUT NATIONAL UNIVersity back to its old place, but not after surviving a huge late-game scare yesterday

The Warriors pulled off an 82-75 victory over the Bulldogs, the former cellar dwellers touted to do well in this year's UAAP men's basketball competition at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Marcy Arellano, who topscored with 21 points, and Hans Thiele kept the Warriors steady late in the fourth quarter after an NU scoring barrage nearly wiped out their 20-point margin.

Joining the Warriors on top at 2-0 were the Ateneo Blue Eagles, who rolled past the University of the Philippines Maroons with a 79-55 rout in the second game.

GAMES TOMORROW
(*Ninoy Aquino Stadium*)
2 p.m.—Adamson vs La Salle (Srs)
4 p.m.—Santo Tomas vs Far Eastern (Srs)

Starting center Rabeh Al-Hussaini posted a game-high 21 points and 12 boards, while first-game hero Ford Arao added 16 for the Eagles.

"Going into the game, we knew that our advantage was our strength and our height," said coach Norman Black of the Eagles, who outrebounded the Maroons, 68-38.

Coach Dindo Pumaren pointed to a "silly decision" that led to the Warriors' near collapse.

NU guard Jessey Garcia drew a foul and a technical from UE sophomore Toto Bandaying, who angrily threw the ball at Garcia late in the third period.

"That gave them four free throws, plus possession, and that's when they gained momentum," said Pumaren. "Overall, we played well. But that silly decision changed the complexion of the game."

Arellano also collected six rebounds and four assists for the Warriors, who got going last Saturday with a 73-60 rout of the Santo Tomas Tigers.

The Bulldogs, who nipped the Far Eastern U Tams in overtime in their debut, shook the Warriors with an 11-0 burst that turned a 70-50 UE lead to a manageable 70-61 deficit with two minutes left in the final quarter.

Another 9-0 run capped by Jonathan Fernandez's back-to-back triples followed by Gregorio's layup—the only bucket the Warriors nailed in a six-minute stretch—further whittled the lead to 72-70.

But a Cyrus Malagueño triple for 78-75 turned out to be the Bulldogs' last bark heading into the last minute as the Warriors closed the game with a five-point cluster.

The scores:

First Game

UE 82—Arellano 21, Gregorio 18, Thiele 8, Borboran 7, Lee 6, Bandaying 6, Martinez 6, Fampulme 4, Llagas 4, Cañizares 2, Lingganay 0.

NU 75—Fernandez 21, Asoro 16, Jahnke 8, Garcia 6, Lingao-Lingao 6, Aguilar 4, Ponferrada 3, Malagueño 3, Dela Cruz 3, Terso 2, Salvado 2, Galapon 1, Luy 0, Catamora 0.

Quarters: 27-20, 53-36, 70-50, 82-75

Second Game

ATENEO 79—Al-Hussaini 21, Arao 16, Reyes 9, Nkemakolam 8, Barracoso 7, Austria 5, Tiu 4, Monfort 3, Baldos 2, Salamat 2, Laterre 2, Long 0, Baclao 0, Sumalinog 0, Escueta 0.

UP 55—Wong 2, Rivera 9, Co 9, Serios 8, Gamboa 6, De Asis 5, Dela Victoria 2, Epres 2, Agbayani 2, Marfori 0, Lopez 0, Rosales 0.

Quarters: 24-19, 44-31, 63-41, 79-55

Fil-Am fencer lands silver in Almaty Asian junior tilt

A SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD Fil-American girl has given a big boost to local fencing by winning a silver medal in the recent Asian Juniors-Cadets fencing championships in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

HOWELL: May see action in SEAG.

Mia Hernandez Howell, daughter of Rose Hernandez, originally from Bicol, and Mike Howell, a lawyer in the California State Department, bowed to a Japanese in the women's foil finals as she gave the two-man RP team a medal in the prestigious meet organized by the Asian Fencing Federation headed by Celso L. Dayrit.

"We're proud of her (Lowell's) achievement," said Dayrit, former Philippine Olympic Committee president who is also head of the RP fencing body. "While other Filipino fencers have recently made headway in the Asian and world level, this is the first time that a Filipina had finished second in a major continental competition."

The only other Filipino in the championships, 14-year-old Jaime Augusto Ignacio, failed to land in the winning circle.

On the way to the finals, Howell beat fencers from South Korea, Singapore, Vietnam, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Hong Kong.

Dayrit said that Howell, who shuttles between Manila and the United States every now and then, might see action in the 24th Southeast Asian Games in Ratchanaburi, Thailand, this December.

SEAG 5 looking for big men

AMATEUR BASKETBALL GODFATHER MIKEE Romero has sounded the alarm.

The Philippine men's team tasked to defend its Southeast Asian Games cage crown in Thailand in December is in dire need of big men.

The problem came up because many of the Philippine Basketball League's crack centers are joining the PBA Rookie Draft next month.

Last year's MVP Joe Devance, JR Quinahan, Samigue Eman, Doug Kramer and Lawrence Bonus, all standing at least 6-foot-5, are reportedly set to turn pro.

"We need to have a tall and mobile team," said Romero, team owner of PBL powerhouse Harbour Centre. "We ought to have at least six big men to be highly competitive in the SEA Games."

To remedy the situation, Romero is meeting with friends in the basketball community to ensure that the soon-to-be-formed RP team won't have a gaping hole in the middle.

Roy Luarca

Del Rosario rules P1-M poker

KENT DEL ROSARIO, A YOUNG AND SOFT-spoken player from Roxas City, joined the elite group of poker millionaires after capturing the top prize in 3rd Philippine Poker Tour (PPT) Million-Peso Hold'em Championship at the Airport Casino Filipino Parañaque on Sunday.

Del Rosario's elite group of PPT poker millionaires includes the event's first winner, Derek Bautista, and his successor, Chris Parker.

After almost 12 hours of intense competition, Del Rosario edged out eventual runner-up Gary Sung of Guam in the last deal holding an ace and five against Sung's king and jack with both players' chips "all-in" for the tourney's biggest pot.

PPT chair and CEO Rey Gamboa awarded the prizes to the other top 10 finishers: Richard Sharpe (Cebu), Cris Morato (Guam), Dereck Bautista (Baguio), Ron Reyes (Metro-Manila), Jefrey Ponce (Angeles), Eric Ang (Cebu), Jun Caberoy (Bacolod), and Mel Mangaser (Bacolod).

Pinoy track aces bag 5 golds in HK

FIVE MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE ATHLETICS TEAM, LED BY Southeast Asian Games steeplechase king Rene Herrera, came through with golden performances while three others brought home silver medals in the Hong Kong Inter-City Athletics Championships over the weekend.

Building up for the SEA Games in Thailand later this year, the 26-year-old Herrera, a native of Guimaras, smashed the meet record in the 3,000-meter steeplechase at the Wan Chai Sports Ground Sunday by clocking 9 minutes, 1.74 seconds.

Narcisa Atienza, also set a new record in heptathlon, sweeping all seven events for 4,757 points.

Herrera's fellow athletes from Western Visayas, John Lozada and Julius Sermona, also shone while Mary Grace Milgar, a bronze winner in the 2005 SEAG, timed 1:00.52 to snare the gold in the 400 hurdles.

Lozada, from Iloilo, ruled the 1,500m in 3:59.14, while Sermona of Himamaylan City, Negros Occidental, reigned supreme in the 5,000m in 15:11.72.

But there was heartbreak for top sprinter Ralph Waldy Soguilon, who missed the 200 meters gold by the closest of margins.

Soguilon, coming off a four-month training stint in the United States, and Tang Yik-chun initially posted similar 21.40 times but a review showed that the Hong Kong sprinter had timed 21.393 seconds, ahead of the Filipino by .005 secs.

Also grabbing silvers were 400 specialist Ernie Candelario and javelin ace Dandy Gallenero.

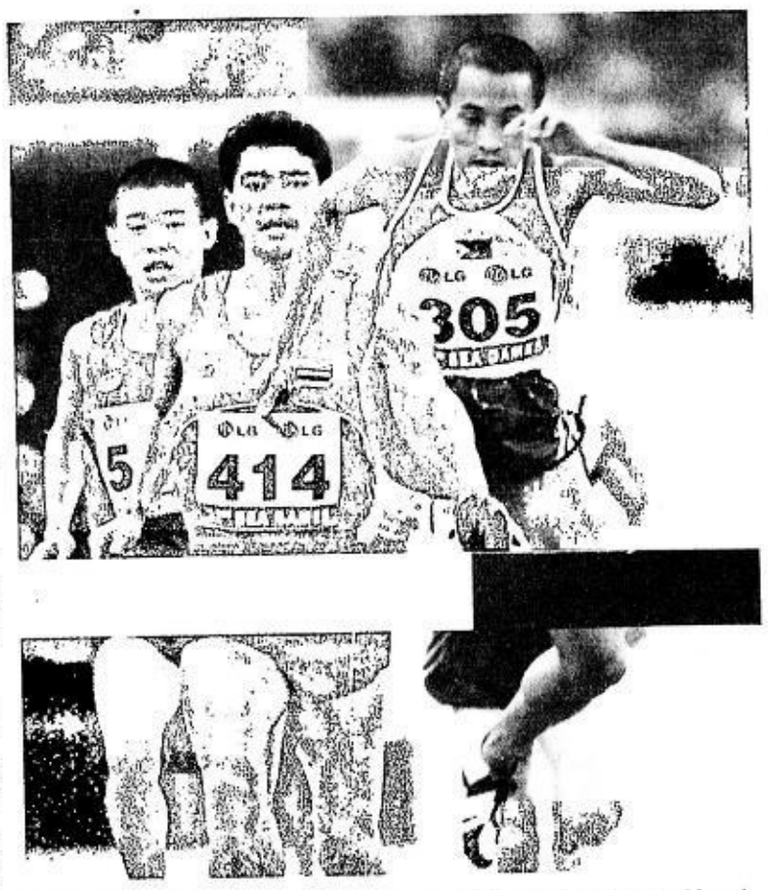
Candelario timed 48.13 and finished second behind Taipei's Pan Ming-long, who did 47.72. Junrey Bano made it a 2-3 finish for the Filipinos by coming in third in 48.61.

Gallenero registered a 62.29-meter effort in the javelin behind Team ZTs Xu Zhaopeng.

Arniel Ferrera, the SEAG hammer throw record-holder, was way off his personal best of 60.47m. He made 55.88m and placed fourth behind three Koreans. Teammate Jerro Perater (48.33m) was sixth.

Emerson Obiena and Loralie Amahit finished fourth in men's pole vault (4.20m) and fifth in women's hammer (47.18m), respectively.

Cedelf P. Tupas, Inquirer visayas



SMASHING: Herrera (front) in action during the 2003 SEAG in Hanoi.

GUINNESS 9-BALL

Alcano leads RP bets

DOUBLE WORLD CHAMPION Ronato Alcano and former world champion Alex Pagulayan head the Philippine challenge in the fourth leg of the Guinness 9-ball tour which starts today in Singapore.

Also carrying the country's colors in the event formerly known as the San Miguel Asian Tour are Marlon Manalo and Roberto Gomez.

The Filipinos have yet to win in the event they dominated last year, and Alcano, the reigning 9-ball and 8-ball champion, has trained hard in his bid to end the RP title drought.

The 34-year-old Alcano also hopes to redeem himself from a disappointing stint in the third leg in Jakarta, where he failed to advance to the knockout stage.

In last year's edition, the Philippines swept the four legs behind Efren "Bata" Reyes, who won twice, and countrymen Rodolfo Luat and Ramil Gallego who took a leg each.

Taiwanese Chang Jung-lin topped this year's inaugural Jakarta leg on April 20-22 and also ruled the third leg in Genting Highlands in Malaysia on June 15-17.

Another Taiwanese, Yang Ching-shun, topped the second leg in Kaohsiung on May 18-20. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Espiritu Cup caging gets going tomorrow

THE 2007 DANNY ESPIRITU CUP, featuring 10 commercial and collegiate teams, kicks off tomorrow with a four-game bill at the RTU gym in Mandaluyong.

An opening rite, graced by sportsman Danny Espiritu, ushers in the hostilities with MBT First Conference Division I champion CKP168 of William Fong up against Rusty Lopez in the 2 p.m. opening game.

Wangs plays the PNP team of Maj. Romulado Lacandazo at 4 p.m., San Beda clashes with De Ocampo at 6 p.m. and Pacific Supertex Kings of Scott Go and James Café battle Avleyo-Anne's Pride at 8.

MBT Corporate division champion Air Relay of Scott Nagle and Acsat are the other teams entered in the 11th season of the Espiritu Cup managed by MBT.

Iligan cagers seek semis versus Iloilo

STANDINGS	W	L
Ozamiz	12	4
Iligan	11	4
Tagaytay	11	5
GenSan	9	6
Pagadian	8	8
Davao	6	10
Valencia	5	11
Quezon	5	11
Iloilo	3	11

GAME TODAY
(USA Gym, Iloilo)
6:30 p.m.—Iligan vs. Iloilo

ILOILO CITY—THE Firefly-Iligan Crusaders gun for an outright semifinals berth in the 2007 Spring Cooking Oil-NBC National Cup basketball tournament today when they play the Toyota-Iloilo Warriors at the San Agustin gym here.

The Crusaders of Mayor Lawrence Cruz and supporter former Sen. Ralph Recto are favored in the 6:30 p.m. contest.

If they win, they will join idle defending champion Ozamiz in the semifinals.

The Crusaders earned a shot at the second semifinal slot after turning back Tagaytay Spring, 85-82, last Sunday.

Spring posted an 11-5 mark at the end of the eliminations in the tournament.

"We'll definitely play tonight seeking an outright semis berth," said Iligan team manager Freddie Siao. "I told the team not to be overconfident, especially now that Iloilo has beefed up its roster."

The Warriors of businessman Robert Uy and strong supporter Mayor Jerry Trenas will bank on Ruel Balgos, Eugene Tan, Floyd Dedicatoria and Erick Rodriguez.

The Crusaders will be bannered by veteran Bong Marata, Nat Cruz and Harold Sta. Cruz.

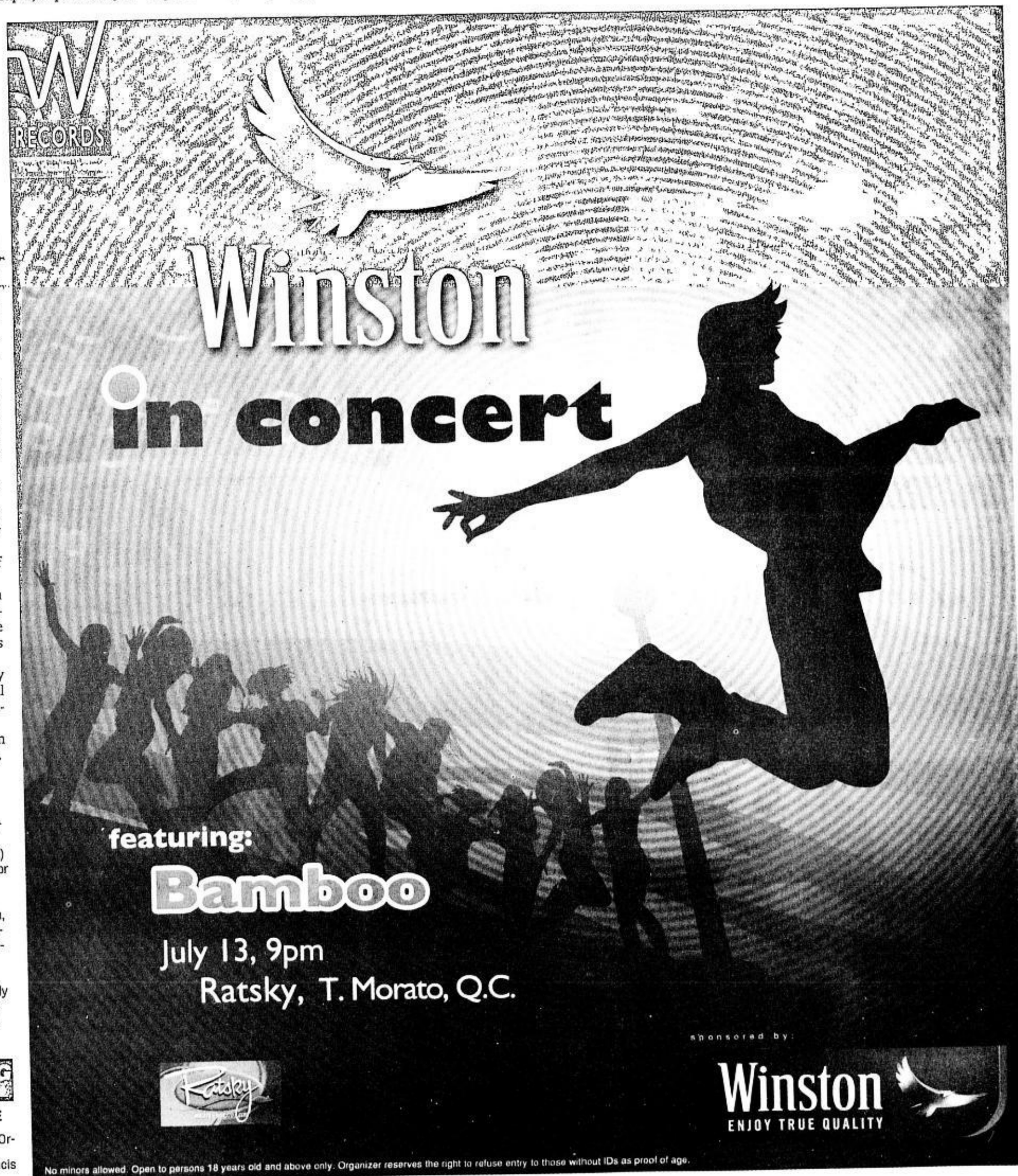
Big Pasay derby under way

A SELECT GROUP OF BIG-TIME COCKERS CLASH starting at 6 p.m. today in the Red Creek 4-Cock Derby at the Pasay City Cockpit. Arnold Mendoza and Ferdie Lim of the National Cockers Association (NCA) are hosting the event backed by Sagupaan Complexor 3000 and which dangles a guaranteed prize of P300,000. Aside from NCA members like Gov. Ito Ynares, Arman Santos, Rep. Iggy Arroyo, Benjie Lim, Patrick Antonio and the Firefly group, also seeing action are top breeders from Negros Occidental. Meanwhile, the first batch of about 100 participants plunges into action on Monday in the venue's 21st Anniversary 6-Cock Derby. Round two sizzles on July 18 and the finals on July 20. Official entries must be submitted on Sunday, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. For inquiries, call 816-6750, 843-1890 or 843-1746.

RACING

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Tri)—Bullet Day (5), Black Magic/So Much Promise (1), Midnight King (3)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Angel Eyes (4), Papillon (5), El Cid (6), Wild Orphan (1)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Beautiful Pet (2), Ger Francis (6), Barawanawest (3), Itza Lemon (1)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Gun Powder (5), Ideal Gaze (1), Kumpirmado (3), Long Nose Hawk (6)
Race 5—(Tata Ra/On The Fairway (6), Irupt (5), Nice Legs (2), Rain Dancer (1)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Special Delivery (9), Matikas (7), Showgirl (5), BlazingSilver (3), Memory Of Fire (10)
Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Serious Susie (3), Please Do (2), Ultra Rose (5), Pride and Joy (3)
Race 8—(Qrt/Tri)—Cat Prince (6), Dow Jones/Shades of Red (1), Lord Elgene (5), Iron Tower (2)
Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Please Don't Stop (5), I Don't Dance (5), Rich And Famous/Head Turner (4), Reklamador (2), Honey Ur Mine (3), Princess Leighla (10)



Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

Sharapova pulls out of Fed Cup

CASTELLANETA MARINA, ITALY—RUSSIA WILL BE MISSING Maria Sharapova for this weekend's Fed Cup semifinal against the United States. World No. 2 Sharapova has pulled out of the US clash in Stowe, Vermont, saying she was not match fit having initially agreed to make her Fed Cup debut in the hardcourt semis. *Reuters*

SPORTS

RASHARD Lewis AP

Magic welcome Lewis

Six-year contract worth $118 million

ORLANDO, FLORIDA—THE ORLANDO Magic welcomed Rashard Lewis on Wednesday after acquiring the high-scoring forward from the Seattle SuperSonics in a sign-and-trade deal.

Terms of the deal were not disclosed, but the Orlando Sentinel reported on its web site that Lewis agreed to a six-year deal worth a whopping 118 million dollars.

It would be the largest contract in franchise history and the fourth-biggest current contract in the NBA.

The Sonics received a future conditional second-round draft pick as part of the deal, which could not be announced until Wednesday—when the NBA's free agent moratorium ended.

Lewis averaged a career-high 22.4 points and 6.6 rebounds in 60 games last season, his ninth in the NBA. The 2005 All-Star was drafted by the Sonics out of high school in 1998.

Lewis became expendable last week when the Sonics selected forward Kevin Durant with the No. 2 overall draft pick and traded guard Ray Allen to Boston for the rights to Jeff Green during the draft on June 28. *AFP*

Cards lock horns with Stags today

TEAMS IN THE LOWER half of the standings mix it up today hoping to get within striking distance of runaway NCAA men's basketball tournament leaders San Beda and Letran today at The Arena.

STANDINGS	W	L
San Beda	4	0
Letran	4	0
S. Sebastian	1	2
Jose Rizal	1	2
Mapua	1	3
St. Benilde	1	3
Perpetual	1	3

GAMES TODAY
(*The Arena*)
2 p.m.—Mapua vs San Sebastian (Srs)
4 p.m.—Jose Rizal vs Perpetual (Srs)

Mapua guns for a second straight win when the Cardinals lock horns with San Sebastian's Stags at 2 p.m. while host Jose Rizal tries to get back on track when it clashes with Perpetual at 4 p.m.

The Heavy Bombers and the Stags have 1-2 marks, slightly ahead of the Cardinals and the Altas, who share 1-3 slates with idle St. Benilde.

Meanwhile, dwindling attendance may force the NCAA to ditch its spanking new venue and go back to its old home.

Sources said the organizers of the country's oldest school sports competitions are contemplating on transferring from the newly built The Arena in San Juan in favor of the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Cited as main reason is the dismal gate attendance despite marquee games that featured certified crowd drawers like San Beda and Letran, which are now lording it in the standings with identical 4-0 starts.

Games featuring league superstars Sam Ekwe, Yousif Aljamal and Pong Escobal of San Beda and Boyet Fernandez and Aaron Aban packed the 10,000-capacity NAS inside the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex last season.

The Arena has yet to see a full crowd after five games in seniors competition. Last Wednesday when Ekwe came back from a one-game suspension, the 5,000-seat venue drew only about 2,000 fans. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

Billups stays a Piston

DETROIT—CHAUNCEY BILLUPS officially re-signed with the Detroit Pistons on Wednesday, inking a multi-year deal with the National Basketball Association club.

Terms of the deal were not disclosed, but the Detroit News reported last week that Billups and the Pistons agreed in principle on a five-year contract worth 60 million dollars.

One of the premier free agents, Billups opted out of his contract with the Pistons on June 25 in order to become a free agent. He was set to make $6,819,000 next season under his old deal.

Known as "Mr. Big Shot" for his penchant for coming through in the clutch, Billups averaged 17.0 points and 7.2 assists in 70 games last season.

Billups, who turns 31 years old in September, was the Most Valuable Player of the 2004 NBA Finals when the Pistons beat the Los Angeles Lakers in five games. He also has been an All-Star in each of the last two seasons. *AFP*

NORWAY'S Thor Hushovd (Credit Agricole/Fra) exults at the finish line of the fourth stage. AFP

Suns gamble on Hill

PHOENIX—THE PHOENIX SUNS' bid to capture their first NBA championship got a boost on Wednesday when they signed seven times All-Star Grant Hill.

Hill, 34, signed a two-year deal worth $1.8 million in the first year and about $2 million in the second, local media reported.

The 12-year NBA forward has a 20-point career average in six seasons with the Detroit Pistons and six with the Orlando Magic.

He averaged 14.4 points for the Magic in 65 games last season.

Hill has had an injury-plagued career with five operations on his left ankle and one for a hernia during his time in Orlando but remains one of the most explosive players in the game. The Suns were 61-21 last season. *Reuters*

Hushovd rules 4th stage

JOIGNY, FRANCE—FABIAN CANCELLARA says he knows his days in the Tour de France's yellow jersey are numbered as the race heads toward the Alps.

The Swiss time-trial ace kept the prized race leader's shirt after Wednesday's fourth stage, a 193-kilometer ride from Villers-Cotterets to Joigny won by Thor Hushovd of Norway.

No rider has threatened Cancellara's lead since he won Saturday's prologue and extended his margin with a daring win in stage three Tuesday, but others are stronger climbers.

Hushovd, who won the green jersey awarded to the Tour's best sprinter in 2005, overcame stomach pain to earn his fifth Tour stage win, finishing ahead of South Africa's Robert Hunter in second and Oscar Freire of Spain in third. Hushovd timed 4 hours, 37 minutes, 47 seconds.

Global Car
SWIFT

It's playtime! Go sporty. Get young. Get behind the wheels of the SUZUKI SWIFT. Take a cut away from the ordinary with its eye-catching looks, sparkling performance, nimble handling, and an upbeat interior that's as practical as it is stylish.

Drive now and have some serious fun.

2 FREE SERVICE YEARS 20,000 km
3 YEARS WARRANTY 100,000

Subcompact Sedan of the Year

2007 EDITORS' PICKS
Subcompact of the Year

SUZUKI
Way of Life!

METRO MANILA
SUZUKI AUTO COMMONWEALTH Prince Motor Corporation 951-2201 to 10
SUZUKI AUTO EDSA Pilhino Sales Corporation 634-3451 to 57
SUZUKI AUTO KALOOKAN Matrix Motor Corporation 364-9093 / 365-6098 365-3011 / 365-7796
SUZUKI AUTO MANILA BAY Wheels, Inc. 556-1485 / 556-1487
SUZUKI AUTO MAKATI Heidelberg Motor Corporation 616-4097 / 610-1736 / 610-1737
SUZUKI AUTO QUEZON AVE. Sunny Motors Group, Inc. 374-3911 / 411-2720
SUZUKI AUTO SHAW The Shaw Motor Plaza Corp. 718-1834 to 35

PROVINCIAL
SUZUKI AUTO BACOLOD Automall Motor Sales (034) 435-0268
SUZUKI AUTO CABANATUAN Prince Motor Corporation (044) 463-5248 / 463-0089
SUZUKI AUTO CEBU Cebu Autocentrale Corp. (032) 345-8892 / 345-8893
SUZUKI AUTO DAGUPAN Amianan Motors (075) 517-1717 / 8888 / 9999
SUZUKI AUTO DAVAO Motormall Davao Corporation (082) 233-1140 / 234-0390
SUZUKI AUTO ILOILO Iloilo Car Corp. (033) 320-7020 / 508-2777
SUZUKI AUTO LAGUNA Areza Motor Sales (02) 520-6725 (049) 411-1079 / 411-1060
SUZUKI AUTO LEGASPI Lisam Motors (054) 472-3577 to 79 / 472-3659
SUZUKI AUTO PAMPANGA Family Cars, Inc. (045) 860-5971 / 961-3573
SUZUKI AUTO ZAMBOANGA Arcef Marketing, Inc. (062) 991-1492 / 991-1126
www.suzuki.com.ph

www.koreanair.com
Excellence in Connection
Enjoy the Best First Class Service in the World
Excellence in Flight
KOREAN AIR
Reservation Center, Manila: 893-4909

Website: www.inquirer.net/business

BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph

RECEDING HAIRLINE?
Call Svenson at 892-HAIR (4247)

BSP cuts rates, removes tiering scheme

Tetangco says impact of twin moves 'neutral'

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS (BSP) MAINTAINED its "neutral" monetary policy stance by taking the the unorthodox move of cutting its key interest rate while scrapping a scheme that paid lower yields for large short-term deposits.

In a briefing, BSP Governor Amando M. Tetangco Jr. stressed that the effects of the "twin complementary moves" would cancel each other out.

Effective today, the tiering system on placements with the BSP will be lifted, while the monetary authority's key overnight borrowing rate would be cut to 6 percent from 7.5 percent. The overnight lending rate was also lowered to 8 percent from 9.75 percent.

Scrapping the tiering scheme has the effect of tightening monetary policy while cutting the key overnight rate has the opposite effect.

"This policy stance—which is neutral relative to future inflation and output—is consistent with the forward-looking orientation of inflation targeting, considering the low actual inflation and, more importantly, the benign inflation outlook over the policy horizon," Tetangco said.

Commercial lending rates are expected to remain broadly unchanged as a result of the move, although future inflation and fiscal concerns may give interest rates a slight upward bias over the next few weeks.

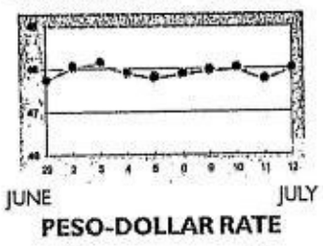
The removal of the tiering scheme and the adjustment in interest rates will also apply to placements in the special deposit account (SDA) facility of the BSP, which the central bank implemented over the summer to tighten monetary policy due to red-hot liquidity growth.

"The latest BSP forecasts continue to indicate that inflation is likely to fall be-

TITLE/ B7

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



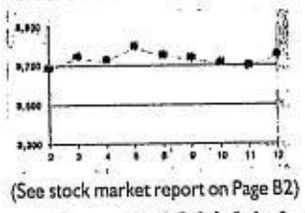
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱45.98 = $1

As of 5 p.m., July 12, 2007

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares close 1.63% higher

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 1.63-PERCENT higher yesterday, snapping a four-day losing streak, with Wall Street's rebound overnight triggering bargain-hunting in blue chips, dealers said.

The composite index added 60.24 points to end at 3,756.75, its high for the day. The low was 3,696.51.

The broader all-share index rose 36.09 points to 2,419.14.

Advancers outnumbered decliners 81 to 38, while 53 stocks ended unchanged.

A total of 6.1 billion shares worth P9.2 billion were traded.

"Investors picked up shares which were

SHARES/ B7

Privatization gives PNOC-EDC more flexibility

By Abigail L. Ho

GIVING MORE CONTROL OF PNOC ENERGY Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC) to the private sector will make it more flexible in accelerating its programmed expansion over the next several years, according to Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla.

In a statement, the energy chief said potential new geothermal sites in the Bicol Region and the Visayas, in particular, would likely see accelerated development over the next three to eight years.

Projects lined up for development included the Nasulo project in Negros Oriental for 20 megawatts (MW) in additional capacity and the Mindanao 3 expansion program in North Cota-

PRIVATIZATION/ B7

Gov't debt eased to ₱3.9T in end-April

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT'S OUTSTANDING debt eased slightly to P3.9 trillion in end-April this year from P3.931 trillion the previous month as the strengthening of the peso helped trim the amount of foreign currency-denominated liabilities.

The latest debt figure, if divided among the estimated 88.7 million population, would mean that each Filipino would have a share of P43,968 in the national government's liabilities. This was an improvement from the P44,318 recorded in March.

As of April last year, the outstanding debt stood at P3.996 trillion.

Documents from the Bureau of the Treasury showed that of the latest debt figure, P1.72 trillion were foreign-currency denominated debts while P2.18 trillion were obligations incurred locally.

The amount of foreign obligations was down 2 percent from the P1.75 trillion recorded in March while domestic debt was 0.2-percent higher than the previous month's P2.18 trillion.

The Treasury also reported that on top of the outstanding debt, contingent liabilities of the national government dropped by 2 percent to P545.9 billion in April from P557.2 billion in March.

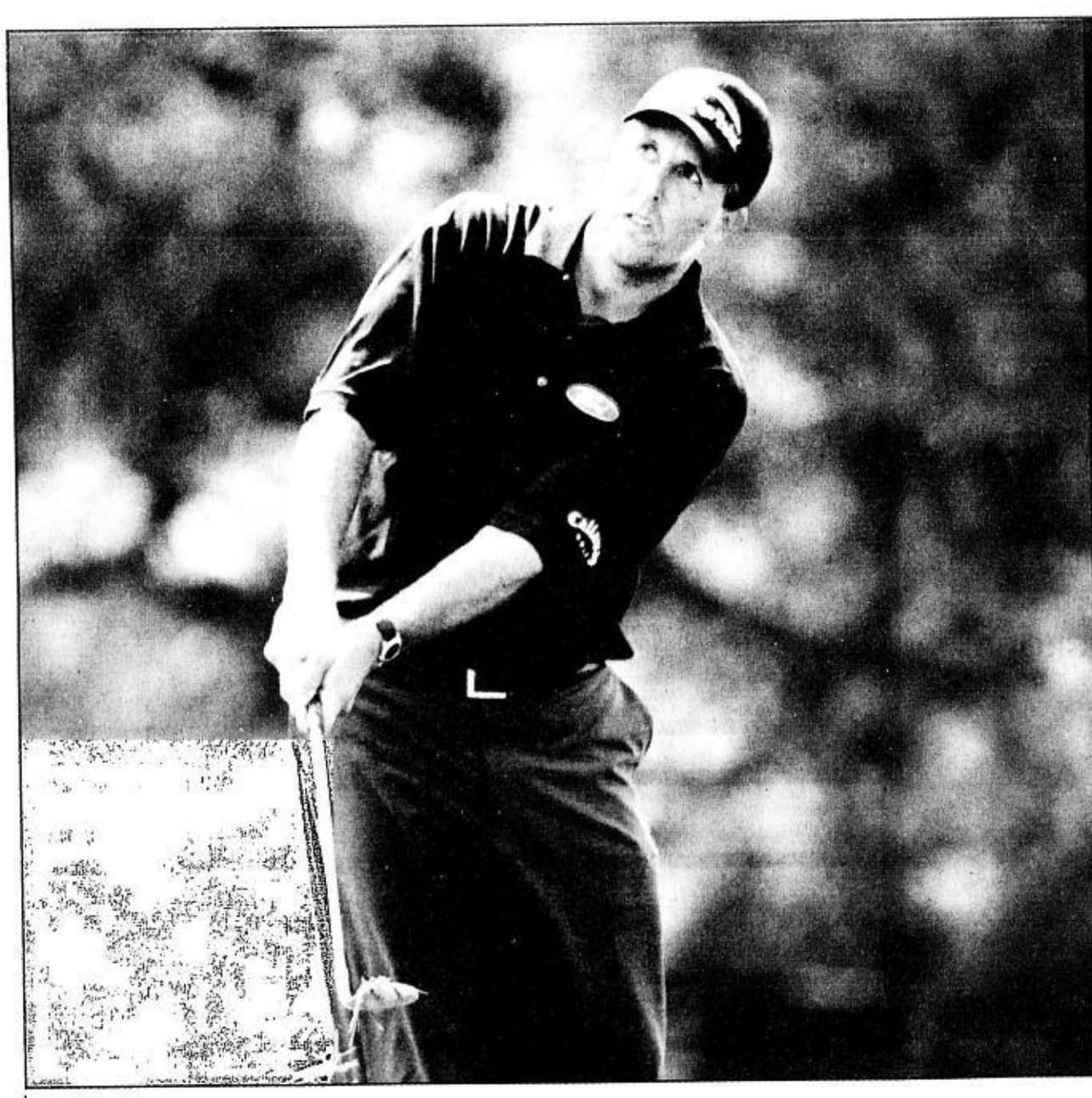
Contingent debt is the total amount of outstanding liabilities of government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) and government financial institutions (GFIs) that have sovereign guarantee, which will make these liabilities part of the national government's debt if the borrowers defaulted.

Since 1998, the government has been relying on borrowings to plug its budget deficits.

However, finance officials said that while the outstanding debt would continually rise year-on-year as long as there was a budget deficit, that appreciation of the peso could temper the increase, or even result in a month-on-month drop in the outstanding debt as the peso-equivalent of the foreign component becomes smaller.

IN THIS ISSUE

RP weathers crisis well, but fails to live up to full growth potential /B4



GOLF CLUB OR
MAGIC WAND?

No one knows how he does it, but Phil Mickelson has become one of the game's all-time greats by taking chances other pros won't. From skipping a ball off a lake on to the green for an eagle, to playing chip shots that fly backwards over his head, Phil's daring and creative game is a magical thing to behold.

ROLEX.COM • OYSTER PERPETUAL DATEJUST

ROLEX

Rolex Service Centre, G/F Corinthian Plaza, 121 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, Metro Manila Tel: 811 3029

Focus on FordService

This Ford Focus can be yours when you avail of FordService.

FordService
Fully Equipped for Any Ford.

Call 889 3673 or see posters and flyers for details.
Promo period: June 15- September 30, 2007. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2614, Series of 2007.

Ford

ford.com.ph

Make Every Day Exciting

Monte Oro buys 75% equity in APC service contract

By Abigail L. Ho

MONTE ORO RESOURCES AND ENergy Inc. (MORE) yesterday signed a farm-in agreement with Aragorn Power and Energy Corp., a wholly owned subsidiary of listed firm APC Group Inc., for Service Contract 48 within the Cagayan Basin.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, APC corporate secretary Edmundo Tan said the agreement would be carried out in two phases, with the first scheduled for completion by next month.

Under Phase 1, MORE will shoulder all expenses related to the conduct of a geological and geophysical surveys on the petroleum block.

The company will pay for Aragorn's share in the work program, with a minimum estimated budget of $500,000. In return, MORE will get a 30-percent equity in the service contract.

For Phase 2, subject to the approval of the Department of Energy, MORE will drill one well or conduct an aeromagnetic survey on the site. This will be done from August this year to August 2008.

As with the first phase, MORE will shoulder Aragorn's share of the expenses, with a minimum financial commitment of between $1.8 million and $2.2 million.

In exchange, MORE will acquire another 45-percent stake in the service contract, raising its total shareholdings to 75 percent.

"The area is a gas-prone basin, based on historical technical data. This alone makes exploration in the basin exciting," MORE president Walter Brown said.

SC 48, which the DOE awarded to Aragorn on Feb. 22, 2005, covers more than 748,000 hectares within the Cagayan Basin.

According to the company's official website, the Cagayan Basin has been previously explored by Podco, Stanvac, Philodrill Corp., PNOC-Exploration Corp. (PNOC-EC), South China Petroleum Resources and Alsons Resources.

"Numerous oil and gas seeps occur in the basin and of the 32 wells drilled there, 15 had varying degrees of oil and/or gas shows," the Aragorn site stated. "Four wells actually flowed gas to surface and one is presently producing one million cubic feet of gas per day to power a 3-megawatt (MW) power plant."

The power plant is owned and operated by PNOC-EC.

The DOE's Norwegian-sponsored Philippine Petroleum Resource Assessment project said the basin was estimated to have a petroleum resource potential of 400 million barrels of oil equivalent.

"We are confident of a fruitful partnership with MORE in the development of the exploration area. This is part of APC Group's commitment toward the development of energy resources in the country," APC Group chair and president Willy Ocier said.

INSULAR LIFE
Wealth Builder and Wealth Secure
Investment Funds of Wealth Builder & Wealth Secure

UNIT PRICES (in Php)	July 09, 2007	July 02, 2007
Fixed Income Fund	1.271746	1.276939
Balanced Fund	1.500974	1.493808
Equity Fund	1.872406	1.847541

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.
The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.

KARL EDWARD INTERNATIONAL
shop @the fort bazaar 2007
BUYER's AVENUE
JULY 14 & 15, '07
AUG. 11 & 12, '07
SEPT. 15 & 16 / 29 & 30 '07
FASHION ACC.
SHOES & BAGS
Saturday & Sunday
10:00 AM to 8:00 PM
NBC TENT
BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY
TAGUIG, METRO MANILA
"where the shopping never ends!"
Shopping has always been a wonderful experience at THE FORT BAZAAR, now experience it more as we invite you to come at KARL EDWARD INTERNATIONAL where you can enjoy the same convenience and quality items at real affordable prices!
Now! You can get world-class IKEA do-it-yourself furniture right here! Low-cost, modern, and user-friendly! Great for urban living!
For more information please call: 372.8453 / 374.3726

START YOUR BUSINESS NOW!
Business with Low Downpayment and Flexible Terms
NASA WATER Corp.
The First Automated Purified Water Vendo Machine
NOW OPEN for FRANCHISE
P15,500 DOWNPAYMENT
(FOR METRO MANILA ONLY!)
Purefresh
COLD WATER P 2.00/ (500 mL)
P 25/ 5 GALLON
INSTALLMENT PLAN FINANCE BY: MALAYAN BANK
www.nasawatervendo.com
NASA WATER CORP. 48C Samat Street, Brgy. Sto Domingo, Quezon City Tel. Nos.: 742-1313; 412 1313; 711-6355; 742-5658 Cell No.: 0922-8421313 Distributors: CEBU: (032) 232-8880 • TACLOBAN: (053) 321-2083 • BACOLOD: 0920-8500750 • DAVAO CITY: (082) 222-5179

Nestlé SM SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION Gardenia Unilever PLDT Clearly for you Coca-Cola NOKIA Levi's Honeywell GREENCROSS INCORPORATED Akari Jollibee
BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS A tradition of leadership.
CENTURY PROPERTIES GROUP We see things a century ahead.
PHILIPPINES CONSUMERS CHOICE 2007

PHILIPPINES' STRONGEST BRANDS CHOSEN BY CONSUMERS
The Consumers Choice Programme employs in-depth research to better understand market forces, demographics and brand performance. This knowledge is used to develop programmes that provide marketers with powerful tools to leverage their brand's strengths.
The Synovate Research Programme has identified Philippine consumers' preferred brands - those that they trust most based on quality and integrity.
Find out who buys your products today.
Find out who buys your competitors' products, and why?
What will consumers be buying tomorrow?
To find out more and see how your brand rated, please contact Ms. Annielie Bermudez-Viray at 884 1780/82/83 • email: annielie@asianimedia.com
www.asianimedia.com
Market research source: Synovate, Global Demographics
HONG KONG • MALAYSIA • SINGAPORE • THAILAND • CHINA • TAIWAN • PHILIPPINES • INDONESIA VIETNAM • AUSTRALIA • JAPAN • ENGLAND • SOUTH AFRICA • CANADA • ARGENTINA

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 12, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	5.2	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	22,500
73	30.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	69.5	71	69.5	70.5	2,015,300
73.5	47.5	Bank of the Philippine Islands	70.5	72	70.5	72	302,000
935	630	China Banking Corp.	905	905	900	900	3,330
40	19	Chinatrust (Phils.) Comm'l Banking Corp.	34	34	34	34	4,400
20.25	18.18	Citystate Savings Bank	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank, Inc	0.54	0.55	0.54	0.55	2,910,000
75.5	34	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	70	71.5	70	71.5	1,294,800
65	32.5	Philippine National Bank	64	64	63	64	190,100
68	38.5	Philippine Savings Bank	64	64.5	64	64.5	2,100
39.57	14.13	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	33	34.5	33	34	3,884,900
90	44	Security Bank Corp.	87.5	87.5	85	86	145,900
66	41.54	Union Bank of the Philippines	62.5	63.5	62.5	63.5	723,900
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.72	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	4.7	5.2	4.7	5.1	1,066,000
1.5	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.16	1.16	714,000
16	1.5	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	15.75	16	15	16	1,813,600
1.6	0.4	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	1.2	1.24	1.16	1.18	875,000
42	28	First Metro Investment Corp.	42	42	42	42	5,000
5	4.05	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	4.25	4.3	4.25	4.25	2,106,000
3.1	0.99	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	2.75	2.75	2.7	2.75	237,000
1,005.00	211	The Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc	810	825	805	825	7,020
2,250.00	1,895.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,140.00	2,150.00	2,140.00	2,150.00	300
1.94	1.22	iVantage Corp	1.86	1.86	1.82	1.86	860,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
0.57	0.18	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.46	0.57	0.46	0.51	32,490,000
68	41.5	First Gen Corp.	67	68	67	68	1,423,100
92	41	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	87	88.5	87	88.5	1,398,000
13.75	7.5	Manila Water Co. Inc.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.5	3,485,200
116	14.5	Manila Electric Co. "A"	106	109	106	108	251,130
118	23.25	Manila Electric Co. "B"	107	110	107	110	1,342,460
6.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	6.4	6.6	6.4	6.5	20,235,000
6.1	3.7	Petron Corp.	5.8	6.1	5.8	6	16,660,000
14	12.25	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	12.75	13.75	12.5	13.5	9,952,400
1.9	0.91	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp.	1.56	1.62	1.56	1.6	959,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	2.85	Alaska Milk Corp	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	50,000
2.95	1.88	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	2.26	2.26	2.24	2.24	96,000
2.75	1.24	CADP Group Corp.	2.04	2.2	2.04	2.2	11,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	135,100
61	30.5	Jollibee Foods Corp.	54.5	54.5	54	54	614,600
1.9	0.77	RFM Corp.	1.66	1.7	1.62	1.7	105,000
4.05	2.2	Roxas Holdings	2.65	2.75	2.65	2.7	37,000
80	61	San Miguel Corp. "A"	75	76.5	74.5	76.5	286,200
88	69.5	San Miguel Corp. "B"	82.5	82.5	82	82.5	610,100
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	18	18	18	18	924,100
0.55	0.19	Vitarich Corp	0.45	0.47	0.43	0.44	4,710,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	1.43	EEI Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.6	1,178,000
6	6	Federal Chemicals Inc.	6	6	6	6	3,000
4.6	1.06	Fortune Cement Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	15,000
9.2	4.3	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8	8	7.9	8	2,673,000
7	1.2	Republic Cement Corp.	5	5	5	5	102,000
2	0.245	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.64	1.7	2,737,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	1.42	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.5	1,016,000
2.5	1.44	Euro-Med Laboratories Phil. Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	10,000
1.34	0.8	Interphil Laboratories Inc. "A"	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	140,000
1.46	0.51	Mabuhay Vinyl Corp	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	154,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.44	0.0625	Picop Resources Inc	0.38	0.41	0.37	0.41	136,320,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	1.74	A. Soriano Corp	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	445,000
0.17	0.023	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.135	0.15	0.13	0.14	367,680,000
1.28	0.18	APC Group Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.06	1.12	11,905,000
3.6	1.4	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	2.75	2.85	2.7	2.85	1,855,000
3.3	1.48	ATN Holdings Inc. "B"	2.85	2.95	2.75	2.9	730,000
0.018	0.0065	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	50,600,000
9.7	4.85	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	8.8	8.8	8.7	8.7	6,494,000
0.021	0.007	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.019	0.019	0.018	0.018	76,600,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.9	6	5.9	6	20,199,000
1.38	0.47	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.04	150,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.46	2.48	2.46	2.46	1,389,000
8	0.8	Aries Prime Resources Inc.	6.3	6.5	6.3	6.5	30,000
590	308.33	Ayala Corp.	565	575	565	575	414,310
14.5	6.96	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	13.5	14	13.5	14	4,100
6.9	0.7	Balabac Resources and Holdings Co. Inc.	4.9	5.1	4.8	4.8	324,000
5.6	1.04	Benpres Holdings Corp.	5.4	5.5	5.3	5.5	6,148,000
10.25	3.25	DMCI Holdings Inc.	9.7	9.9	9.7	9.8	2,765,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.4	979,000
3.55	1.16	House of Investments Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.75	2.8	94,000
14.5	5.6	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	12.25	12.75	12.25	12.75	147,600
0.8	0.185	MEDCO Holdings Inc.	0.52	0.56	0.52	0.56	740,000
11.5	0.26	Multitech Investments Corp.	8.8	9.3	8.8	9.1	5,547,000
5.4	0.88	NIHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	24.5	27	24.5	26.5	1,740,900
0.17	1.3	PAL Holdings Inc.	4.75	4.75	4.6	4.65	157,000
0.75	0.009	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.13	0.17	0.12	0.135	1,924,980,000
2.02	0.16	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.55	0.56	0.55	0.56	1,110,000
452.5	1.2	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	6,000
2.2	200.44	SM Investments Corp.	427.5	435	427.5	432.5	246,430
0.73	0.71	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	32,000
1.06	0.115	Sinophil Corp.	0.53	0.54	0.51	0.52	61,990,000
1.6	0.51	Solid Group Inc.	0.88	0.89	0.88	0.89	1,200,000
0.75	0.78	South China Resources Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	100,000
1.1	0.085	Wellex Industries Inc	0.47	0.59	0.47	0.53	42,170,000
	0.155	Zeus Holdings Inc	0.8	0.83	0.8	0.83	360,000
		PROPERTY					
2.16	0.78	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.64	1.66	1.62	1.66	791,000
1.06	0.3	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.77	0.8	0.77	0.8	420,000
19.25	9.58	Ayala Land Inc.	17.75	18.25	17.75	18.25	8,355,300
1.88	0.99	Belle Corp.	1.64	1.66	1.64	1.66	4,000,000
4.7	2.08	Cebu Holdings Inc.	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.5	257,000
2	1.2	Cebu Property Venture and Dev't Corp."A"	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	5,000
0.86	0.26	Crown Equities Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.79	0.8	1,390,000
0.83	0.18	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.55	0.56	0.55	0.56	3,150,000
3.25	0.75	Edsa Properties Holdings Inc.	3	3	3	3	535,000
0.99	0.44	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.85	0.86	0.85	0.86	11,050,000
0.32	0.033	Ever Gotesco Resources and Hold'gs Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	12,440,000
1.38	0.38	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.16	1.2	1.16	1.18	8,992,000
2.44	0.99	Filinvest Land Inc.	2.08	2.24	2.08	2.24	76,654,000
0.41	0.07	Gotesco Land Inc. "A"	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	200,000
3.3	2.16	Highlands Prime Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	82,000
2.42	0.74	Keppel Philippines Properties Inc.	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	23,000
0.69	0.2	Kuok Phil. Properties Inc.	0.44	0.45	0.44	0.45	3,810,000
1.12	0.18	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.95	0.97	0.93	0.96	5,300,000
4.4	1.28	Megaworld Corp.	3.95	4	3.9	3.95	52,641,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.3	117,000
0.7	0.11	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.51	0.55	0.5	0.51	5,880,000
0.87	0.25	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.67	0.68	0.65	0.67	11,690,000
9.2	1.1	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	6.4	7.1	6.4	6.8	1,120,000
23	10.5	Robinson Land Corp.	19.75	20.25	19.75	20	8,768,600
5.7	1.23	SM Development Corp.	5.4	5.7	5.4	5.7	3,638,000
13.25	5.92	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	12.5	12.75	12.5	12.75	7,253,500
1.34	0.51	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.93	0.95	0.93	0.95	230,000
0.36	0.06	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	3,760,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	6.5	7.5	6.5	7.1	24,292,000
		MEDIA					
35	15.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	34.5	35	34	35	209,500
1.14	0.98	Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.06	75,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.16	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.56	1.58	1.56	1.56	762,000
1,445.00	900	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,350.00	1,395.00	1,350.00	1,395.00	20,110
2,820.00	1,790.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,695.00	2,715.00	2,685.00	2,700.00	181,110
7.9	3.2	Pilipino Telephone Corp	7.1	7.2	7	7.2	4,287,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.3	0.28	0.29	14,890,000
12	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	10.25	10.25	10	10	51,800
10.5	2	IPVG Corp.	10.25	10.25	9.6	9.6	6,865,000
0.065	0.0274	ISM Communications Corp.	0.0575	0.0575	0.0525	0.0525	483,100,000
29.5	5.5	Imperial Resources Inc. "A"	28	28.5	26.5	27.5	71,200
2.9	1.8	Ionics Inc.	2.18	2.3	2.18	2.26	237,000
0.25	0.04	Island Information and Technology Inc.	0.18	0.25	0.17	0.25	704,460,000
2.08	1.12	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	67,000
0.0725	0.027	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.0625	0.0625	0.06	0.06	196,400,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc	2.85	2.95	2.85	2.85	1,254,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
1.92	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.68	1.72	1.68	1.7	457,000
6.8	2.5	Asian Terminals Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.6	41,000
32	13.75	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	30	30.5	30	30	2,399,800
2.14	0.86	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	2.08	2.1	2.08	2.1	179,000
2.04	0.8	Lorenzo Shipping Corp	2.04	2.04	1.9	1.9	80,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
16.5	3.8	Acesite (Phils.) Hotel Corp.	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	10,000
4.25	1.26	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	3.65	3.65	3.55	3.55	308,000
4.55	2.8	Philippine Racing Club Inc.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	55,000
0.98	0.18	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc.	0.71	0.72	0.71	0.72	520,000
1.2	0.42	Waterfront Philippines Inc	0.98	1	0.93	0.96	210,000
		EDUCATION					
3.7	2.65	iPeople Inc	3.2	3.25	3.2	3.25	6,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	1.9	Macroasia Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.5	5.6	1,487,000
17.25	13	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	15	15.25	15	15.25	246,500
30	9.9	Paxys Inc	23	23	22.75	23	1,343,400
		MINING					
0.018	0.0075	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.014	0.015	0.014	0.014	770,100,000
7.6	3.3	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.4	552,000
7.7	3.35	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	80,000
21.25	7.4	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	15.5	15.5	15	15	8,123,500
14.25	8.7	Benguet Corp. "A"	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	39,200
5	1.7	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	2,000
3.05	0.0713	GEOGRACE Resources Philippines Inc.	2.9	2.95	2.8	2.9	27,108,000
0.35	0.215	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	2,790,000
0.42	0.225	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	3,460,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.03	0.032	0.03	0.031	365,600,000
0.041	0.019	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.033	0.033	0.032	0.032	16,700,000
30	0.008	Omico Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	134,300,000
0.024	3.15	Philex Mining Corp.	5.7	5.8	5.5	5.8	8,679,000
6.4	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	40	40.5	40	40	775,600
43	0.35	United Paragon Mining Corp.	1.08	1.14	1.08	1.1	9,997,000
1.36	0.52	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp	1.42	1.44	1.38	1.38	6,468,000
		OIL					
1.8	0.25	Basic Petroleum Corp.	0.55	0.56	0.5	0.5	60,530,000
0.58	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A"	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.022	61,700,000
0.025	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B"	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	7,700,000
0.027	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10.25	10.75	10.25	10.25	153,300
14.25	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.024	0.025	0.023	0.025	108,500,000

BY INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK

Mrs. Norma L. Blas, Director and Chief Finance Officer of Continental TEMIC Electronic and TEMIC Automotive Phils., Inc. won a free trip to HK Disneyland for 2 in the recently-concluded formal unveiling of the Bank of the Philippine Islands' foreign outward payments and trade service, the **BPI to World** Shown in photo from left to right are BPI officers: SEVP Gil A. Buenaventura, Mrs. Norma L. Blas, SVP Ma. Lourdes A. Claravall, BPI President Aurelio R. Montinola III and SVP Eduardo D. Jose.

BPI to World Takes Flight

BPI recently introduced the fast and convenient way to effect payments worldwide in its BPI to World product launch.

"The changing landscape of Philippine business has prompted BPI to continually craft innovative products and services addressed to the world market." BPI President Aurelio R. Montinola III said in his message during the launch.
Mr. Montinola added that BPI to World hopes to bring the business of BPI clients closer to the world and help them succeed in the global marketplace.

BPI to World is a suite of trade and payment products for the smooth and easy conduct of international business. A beneficiary bank gets credited in seconds, with direct transmittal of remittance transactions to SWIFT and with the usual high service standards of international quality.

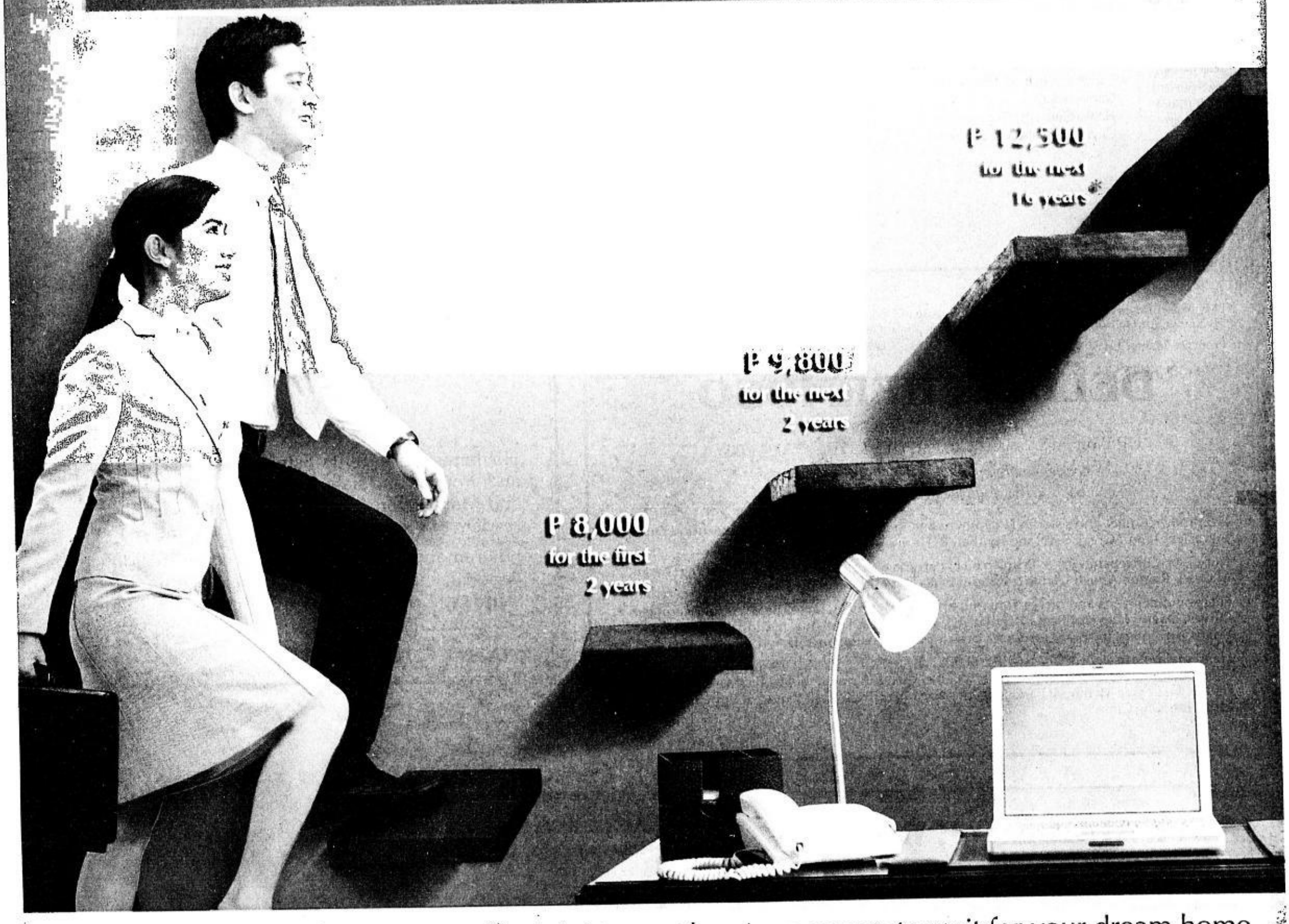
And soon, TRADE AND NON-TRADE DIRECT REMITTANCES can be done anywhere in the world with the BPI ExpressLink Cross-border Fund Transfer (CBFT) Facility. BPI ExpressLink is BPI's online cash management platform. CBFT offers a paperless way of remitting payments and hassle-free reconciliations through ready access to bank statements. A 24-7 help desk and dedicated technical team support the service.

BPI is also the first Philippine bank to offer same-day money transfers to China - one of the world's fastest emerging economies.

With BPI to World, outward trade and non-trade remittances are handled the smooth and easy way ■

BPI to WORLD TAKES FLIGHT!

Step Up in life with the only housing loan that adjusts your monthly amortization to your earning capacity.



With fixed payments that you can afford right now, there's no reason to wait for your dream home.
Introducing

BPI Family Savings Bank's Step UP Housing Loan

You've got drive and determination. And with BPI Family Savings Bank's Step Up Housing Loan, your hard work will surely pay off. Step Up has very affordable amortization plans carrying fixed loan amounts for 15 and 20-year terms. Finally, you can own your dream home today.

Choose between:

FIXED 15-YEAR TERM

Monthly Amortization	Payment Schedule
P 8,000	first 2 years
P 11,800	next 2 years
P 13,600	Remaining 11 years

FIXED 20-YEAR TERM

Monthly Amortization	Payment Schedule
P 8,000	first 2 years
P 9,800	next 2 years
P 12,500	Remaining 16 years

* Computation based on a P1,000,000 loan amount on a fixed 20-year term

For more information, call 845-6888, 754-6747, 754-6582, 754-6557 or 89-100.
Text HOUSING<space>name<space>message and send to 0917-8910000 or 0918-8910000.
Log on to bpiexpressonline.com or visit any BPI, BPI Family Savings Bank or Express Banking Center near you.

Build your Dream HOUSING LOAN

Initially available in Metro Manila and soon in the provinces.

BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK
Get started on tomorrow.

NORTHVIEW VILLAS
Quezon City
Building Closer Family Ties At Home.

SPANISH MEDITERRANEAN SOFIA HOUSE MODEL
164 sqm. usable floor area · 3 BR · 2 T&B · Roofdeck · Carport · Living area · Dining & Kitchen · Service area

GRAND OPEN HOUSE
on July 21, 2007 from 9am-5pm
at Serra Monte Villas Clubhouse
932-1205 • 951-5674

FILINVEST
INVEST ON SOLID GROUND
www.filinvest.com.ph

RSG GUEVENTHOMES

BACOOR only 10 mins from Bacoor!
OPEN HOUSE DAILY
30% D/P in easy installment
70% balance thru In-House financing/Pag-IBIG Housing Loan
P6,606/mo*
*Pag-IBIG Housing Loan

walk to University Belt
STARTS P900T
CASH/TERMS
STUDENT CONDO
531-4121*534-9921*531-1384*534-8350
(0920)950-4626*(0915)317-5553*(0920)911-0002
www.guevent.com * hbi@guevent.com

FOR SALE
New & reconditioned golf carts available for sale. Can be seen at 448 EDSA, Guadalupe, Makati. Please call Luz Cruz/Jomarie during office hours at Tel. Nos. 897-83-77/899-38-78/896-07-33

NOTICE OF LOSS
DA-RFU III Receipts No. 8960951-896100 and 4901351-4901400 given to Mrs. Margarita Santos by General Services Section were lost. Any transaction covered by those OR# shall not be honored by the company.
DA-RFU III
City of San Fernando, Pampanga
(PDI–July 10, 12 & 13, 2007)

NDC
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

The NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (NDC) and the NATIONAL STEVEDORING AND LIGHTERAGE CORPORATION (NSLC) invite interested bidders for the sale of their combined 12,500 common shares of stocks in the DAVAO INTEGRATED PORTS STEVEDORING & SERVICES CORPORATION (DIPSSCOR) in cash and on an "as-is, where is" basis. The minimum bid is set at P1,860.95 per share.

Interested parties may register and secure the Information Memorandum and Bidding Guidelines upon payment of P1,000.00 which is non-refundable beginning 16 July 2007 at:

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY
c/o The Secretariat
Disposal Committee
6th Floor, National Development Company
116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati City
Direct Line: (02) 840-13-36; (02) 840-11-47;
Trunk Line: (02) 840-48-38 Locals 212 and 269

Bids must be sealed and submitted between 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM of 17 August 2007 labeled and addressed as follows:

THE CHAIRMAN
Disposal Committee
National Development Company
6th Floor, NDC Building
116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village
Makati City

CODE: DIPSSCOR SHARES

The opening of sealed bids, prepared in the prescribed forms and accompanied by a 10% bid bond, is scheduled on 17 August 2007 at 2:01 PM at the NDC Alberto Barretto Hall, NDC Building in the presence of all bidder(s) and/ or their authorized representative(s). Bids submitted after 2:00 PM shall no longer be accepted.

The NDC Disposal Committee reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to waive any of the formalities required, or accept only such bids, which are deemed advantageous to NDC.

Disposal Committee Chairman

(PDI–July 13, 14 & 15, 2007)

BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX & other SWISS SWATCHES
JEWELRY
DIAMONDS
BEST PRICE
SPOT CASH
8341572
8316712
MAKATI•GREENHILLS•PRIMAT

PROFESSIONAL & CREDIBLE
PAWN*BUY*SELL
WATCHES
Jewelry & Diamonds
BEST APPRAISAL
Secondo Glorietta 1
Tel# 894-0282
Agencia de Makati
Tel# 889-7956

MID-YEAR BUSINESS PROMO
Be an INDEPENDENT DISTRIBUTOR
for 5,000 start up capital w/ the IT. products:
(San Miguel Corp., Magnolia, Purefoods, Monterey, Mega Sardines, Unilever, Splash, Disney Products, Savona, Superferry, etc.)
Open for FRANCHISING & OUTLET CENTER
Contact: Benjie A. Fuentes, Mktg. Consultant
0928-7977872 / 0922-5870520 or (02) 636-6892

+ Doctor Pill Pulverizer

3 in 1 Use:
a. Medicine Pulverizer
b. Medicine Cutter
c. Pocket Medicine Container

Exclusively Imported & Distributed by:
LST Summit, Inc.
Mandaluyong City, Philippines
Tel No. (632) 534.3812, 534.2489
info@lstsummitinc.com

Available in all
mercury drug
MAKASIGURO GAMOT AY LAGING BAGO

FOR SALE
BAGUIO
Three Star Hotel
For inquiries call:
413-3835 (Aileen)
245-4683 (Vivian)
495-1323 (Dino)
0917-5273087

More CLASSIFIED ADS on pages...

Department of Labor-NCR A16
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas A16
Social Security System A16
Western Visayas Medical Center A16
Landbank of the Philippines A16
Norsamelco A24
Home Guaranty Corporation A24
City Government of Bayawan A24

07 URVAN ESCAPADE
10 HOURS
P1,800
WITH DRIVER
7878776/7964377
09213497170

CALL POEA 24-HOUR HOTLINES 722-1144 or 722-1155

OBITUARIES

"My heart praises the Lord; my soul is glad because of God my Savior, for He has remembered me. His lowly servant"
From the Magnificat of Mary (Luke 1:46-48)

DELIA L. HERMOSO

UP Law Class 1959
UP Women Lawyers Circle (WILOCI) Pres. 2004-2006.

was called home to the Lord on July 12, 2007 at the age of 70.

Her brother, Romeo and sister-in-law Josefina and their children **Reuel R. Hermoso** and **Ditas; Joyce; Jenina** and **Gregg Sato**; and **Reuben R. Hermoso** and **Anna Katrina**;

Her sister **Concepcion (†) & Primitivo (†) Parreño** and **children Olive & Dan Pagulayan, Maros & Ramon Apostol, Irma & Rainier Parra** and **Ella & Aubrey Gan**;

Her grand nephews and nieces **Tatti** and **Pocholo Hermoso, James Sato, Anton Hermoso; Oliver, David, Jake** and **Paola Pagulayan; Jeram Apostol, Joshua** and **Jonathan Parra** and Brian Gan request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapels A and B, Christ the King, Parish Church, Green Meadows Subdivision, Green Meadows Avenue, Quezon City. Interment will be on Tuesday, July 17, 2007 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, after the 8:00 A.M. mass at the main altar of Christ the King Church.

CARL STEVEN RAMBOANGA REYES

(March 24, 1978 – June 29, 2007)

joined his Creator on June 29, 2007 at the age of 29.

His bereaved parents **Esteban** and **Marilou Reyes** and brothers and sister **Leo Steven, Carmen Abigail;** and **Mar Steven & Melody Claire** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence in Bangkal, Lapu-lapu City, Cebu. Cremation will be on Sunday, July 15, 2007 at 10:00 a.m., Benevola Crematory, Pulpogan, Consolacion, Cebu City.

ATTY. AUGURIO P. DE VERA

*peacefully joined our Lord and his wife, **Josephine N. de Vera** on July 11, 2007 at the age of 71.*

His children **Irene & Nelson, Dr. Maxie & Olive, Jokee & Leo, Paul & Gina, Jose & Fritzie**; grandchildren **Danielle, Denise, Dexter & Dave, Matthew, Joseph & Jacob, Lucas & River** give thanks to the Lord for the blessing of his life.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be held at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City on Sunday, July 15, 2007 at 3:00 p.m.

"Unto thee O Lord, I lift up my soul."
Psalm 25:1

Death Notices

PHILIP ABONG, Sr.

peacefully joined our Lord on July 11, 2007 at the age of 41.

His remains lie in state at Chapel A, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment to be announced later.

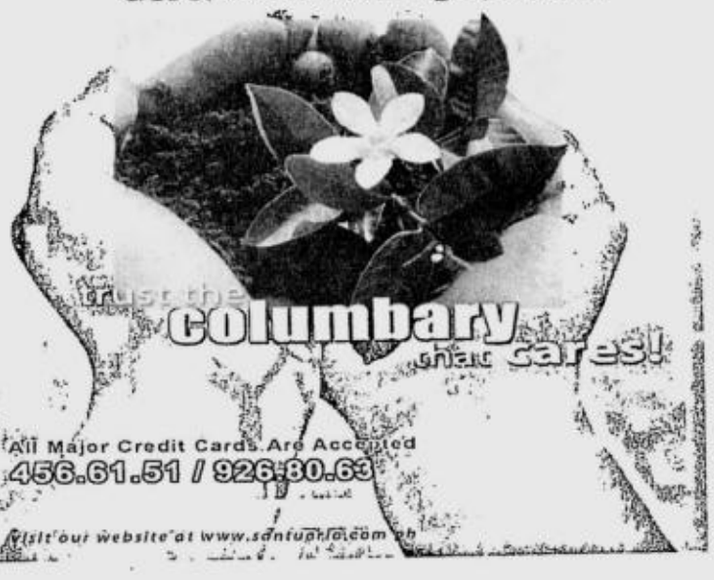
ROGELIO "Daddy Ogie" BUENAVISTA BORLAZA

peacefully joined our Lord on July 8, 2007 at the age of 63.

His remains lie in state at No. 073 A. Mabini St., Liliw, Laguna.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 15, 2007, 2pm at Liliw Municipal Cemetery after the mass at St. John the Baptist Church, Liliw, Laguna.

221 St. Vincent Seminary Complex, Tandang Sora Avenue, Quezon City
AWARDS
our loved ones deserve something special...



MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the CLEMENTE family, would like to express our heartfelt gratitude and thanks for the beautiful thoughts, prayers, kindness, and comfort given to us during the recent loss of our beloved...

† RANDO R. CLEMENTE

October 23, 1961 - June 26, 2007

May God continue to bless you all!

From: Mayette (wife)
and children - Geline, Bubuy, and Carlo

NIEVES dela VEGA BAUTISTA-ARAMBULO

*wife of the late **Domingo V. Arambulo** peacefully joined our Lord on July 11, 2007 at the age of 87.*

Her loving children: **Boy, Pio, Becky, Muling, Jack, Minnie** and **Vangie**; children-in-law; grandchildren and all relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

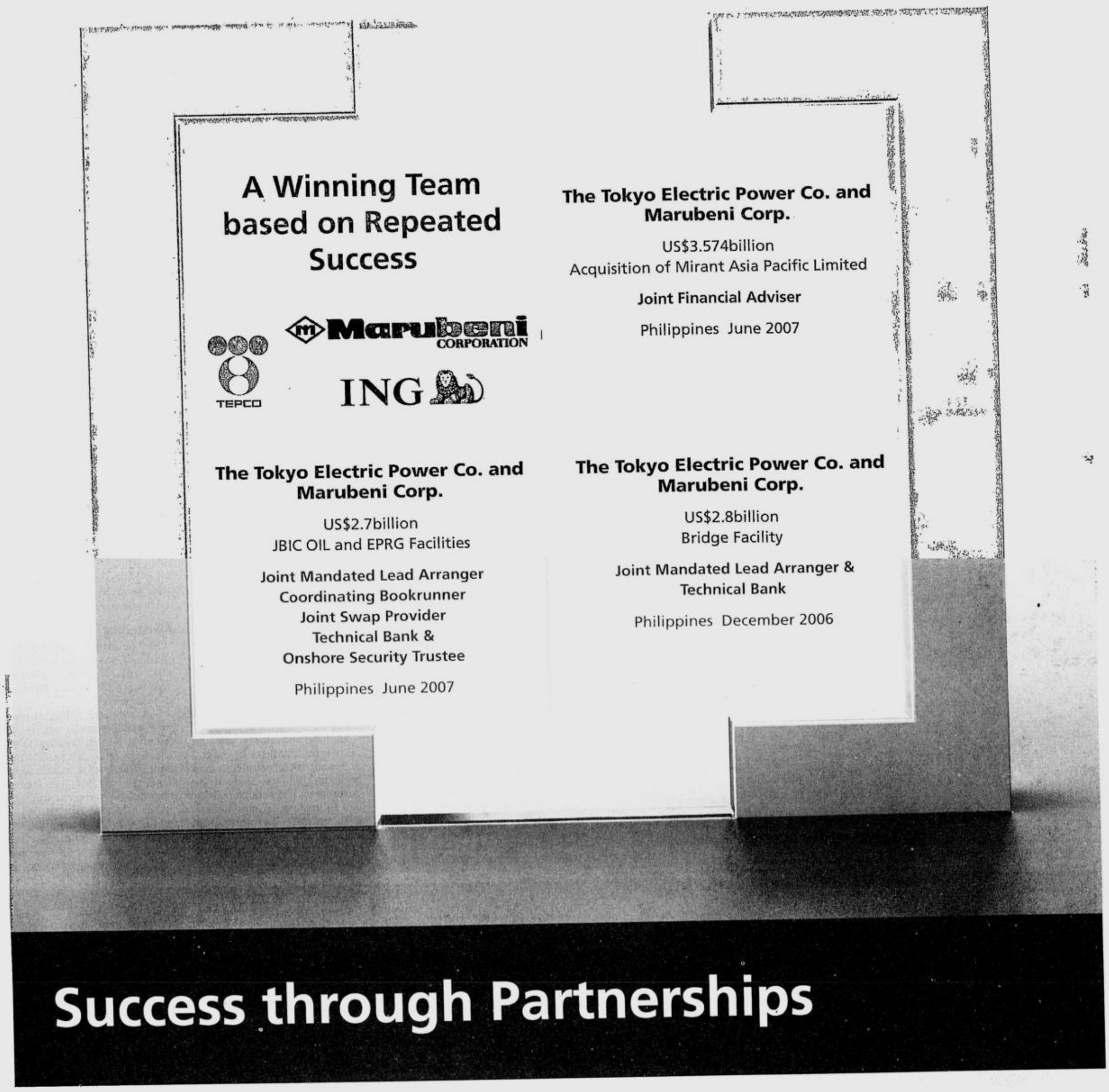
Her remains lie in state at 36 A. Cruz St., Frisco, Quezon City.

Interment will be on July 17, 2007 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Quezon City after the 9:30 a.m. Mass at the Park's Chapel.

Interment Announcement

The remains of **Antonio Victor Ulgado y Nañagas** will be transferred from Sta. Maria Della Strada Chapel, Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, Quezon City to Imus Cathedral on Saturday, July 14, 2007 at 9:00 a.m.

Interment will be at the Imus Cemetery after the 12:45 p.m. Mass.



Success through Partnerships

The consortium of The Tokyo Electric Power Company, Inc. and Marubeni Corporation recently completed their acquisition of Mirant Corporation's Philippine power business for US$ 3.574 billion.

The transaction is the largest M&A and Structured Finance deal in the Philippines. It is also the largest Utilities' M&A deal in Asia as of June 2007.

ING provided a full range of financial services to the consortium, acting as:

- Joint Financial Adviser, providing valuation and bid strategy advice;
- Joint Mandated Lead Arranger, providing a US$2.8 billion bridge facility that supported the bid, and proceeded to act as Joint Mandated Lead Arranger for the US$2.7 billion senior takeout loan facility from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC);
- Joint Provider for the interest rate swap covering the JBIC facilities;
- Technical Bank for the Mandated Lead Arrangers and JBIC, liaising with lenders' engineers on their behalf;
- Coordinating Bookrunner, assisting in the overall syndication process of the JBIC facilities; and
- Onshore Security Trustee for the secured lenders.

Our long term commitment to clients is all about building a special understanding by delivering a comprehensive financial solution to meet their needs.

For more information, please contact the following at ING Wholesale Banking:

Manuel R. Salak III, Managing Director, Country Manager
T +63 2 479 8800
Juan Carlos L. Syquia, Managing Director, Corporate Finance
T +63 2 479 8882
Jose Gabino L. Dimayuga, Director, Structured Finance
T +63 2 479 8944
Consuelo D. Garcia, Managing Director, Financial Markets
T +63 2 479 8833

ING

WHOLESALE BANKING

WWW.INGWHOLESALEBANKING.COM

RP weathers crisis well, but fails to live up to full growth potential

Despite positive statistics, country lags behind neighbors

By Doris C. Dumlao, Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson and Daxim L. Lucas

SPECIAL REPORT

THE GOOD NEWS LOOKING back is that the Philippines emerged out of the Asian crisis better than its neighbors.

The bad news is the country "rested on its laurels" and is now lagging—despite its positive economic statistics—behind the rest of the world's fastest growing region.

"It remains to be seen whether the Philippines can take advantage of its position in the region and partake in the Asian Century to the extent of its potential," former Finance Secretary Roberto de Ocampo said.

The Asian Development Bank had said the country must fast-track its growth rate past the 5-6 percent range seen over the last few years in order to make a more significant dent on poverty reduction.

De Ocampo said the performance of the economy, while better than its historical level, paled in comparison with those of its peers who suffered much more at the height of the crisis. The fiscal situation also worsened after the crisis, prompting the government to swallow the bitter pill via a 2-percentage hike in the value-added tax to 12 percent.

"The Philippines remains at near bottom of competitiveness rankings, even below Indonesia. It receives crumbs from huge capital inflows to emerging Asia projected to reach more than $50 billion by the end of 2007," De Ocampo said.

Overhang

"In the Philippines, the impact of the crisis wasn't as much as the rest of the region, yet you see the Philippines taking much longer to come out of the crisis. You still see a number of banks in rehabilitation," said Citigroup country officer Sanjiv Vohra.

Vohra said reforms in the banking system must be carried on and that risk management should be on a forward-looking basis. When the crisis erupted, he said lending was more based on collateral rather than cash flows.

He admitted that when the crisis struck 10 years ago, foreign banks joined the herd by pulling out credit, contributing to the regional decline in asset values that had a vicious impact on these economies. If there's one lesson that foreign banks must remember from this crisis, he said: "Don't overreact."

Going forward, Vohra said the Philippines must put in place the much-awaited centralized credit bureau and reform bankruptcy laws in order to make it easier and less costly for banks to recover their capital. This, in turn, would bring down cost of doing business and make banks more efficient.

Joachim von Amsberg, World Bank's outgoing Philippine country director, said that while the Philippines was able to overcome the direct impact of the crisis, it took longer for the country to deal with its macroeconomic impact due to governance issues.

"It was symptomatic," he said. "The symptom was poor fiscal performance that took many years to turn around the fiscal situation, to bring down debt to level that would make the markets confident again."

Behind the weak fiscal policy were complex governance structures that had obstructed the country's path, Von Amsberg noted.

"It's governance that did not have the real power to implement decisive policies, years of wavering on policy stance," he said. "That's related to the fragmentation of power, with very influential groups trying to retain their power. Influential political, business or religious groups try to grab some particular interests and are often powerful enough to keep the government from taking decisive actions, or to slow down efforts to make some of the adjustments that were necessary after the Asian crisis."

But over the last few years, he said the reforms taken by the government demonstrated how progress could be made if the government had enough political will to implement important reform measures like the expanded value added tax. As such, the country has been quickly rewarded by the financial markets in the form of strong currency and favorable interest rates.

He said the question now was whether this model—where decision-making could be insulated from groups with vested interests—could be expanded to boost the business climate.

Awakening

For politicians, businessmen and stock market analysts, the Asian crisis was a long nightmare from which the country has now awakened from.

Sen. Manuel Villar, whose property empire was one of the country's biggest housing firms before the crisis, feels that companies now have a better understanding of the risks they face in today's globalized economy.

"We are now experiencing a (an economic) boom in the Philippines," he said. "On the benefit of hindsight, our compa-

RP WEATHERS/ B7

Then and now

	1997	2007
Inflation (% average)	5.6	2.7
GIR ($ billions)	8.8	25.6
Equivalent months of imports	2	4.8
Exchange rate	39.98	46.27
External debt ($ billions)	43	53.4
External debt to GDP	52.2	45.4
Total Resources		
Financial system (P billions)	3389	6283
Banking system (P billions)	2779	5124
NPL ratio (%)	4.7	5.3
Capital adequacy ratio (%)	Not available	16.9
Bank lending rate (%)		
High	26.4	8.3
Low	23.9	6.6

SOURCE: BSP

Critical lessons for firms, investors

SINCE THE 1997 ASIAN FInancial crisis, Philippine companies have moved to significantly reduce debt which was their main Achilles heel when the value of the peso fell through the floor.

Philippine Equity Partners Inc. head of research Jojo Gonzales said that by 2006, debt levels of local firms were at their lowest since the Asian crisis, with debt-to-equity ratios trimmed to 0.8 times in 2006 from a peak of 1.5 to 1.7 times in 2000. This meant that for every peso of equity, a company now has only 80 centavos of debt.

Driving home the point that the crisis is over, companies have also started aggressive expansion and acquisition plans in the past few years.

Gonzales said banks had also responded to the financial crisis with tighter rules on dollar lending such as by lending this denomination only to those with dollar cash flows. Banks have also shifted to better credit policies. Instead of the old practice of character lending approved on the basis of relations and friendship as opposed to credit scoring-based loan appraisals.

Henceforth, companies will likely manage debt more carefully than they did in the mid-1990s. Merger and acquisition activities are also likely to be rooted more on profitability than the sheer drive for size and prestige, he said.

As for stock investors, they should be wary of highly speculative stocks despite the stock market's fast and furious highs.

Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

CURRENCIES

July 12, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.727326	1.000000	46.1590
Japan	Yen	0.005940	0.008167	0.3770
United Kingdom	Pound	1.477926	2.032000	93.7951
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.093055	0.127941	5.9056
Switzerland	Franc	0.603290	0.829463	38.2872
Canada	Dollar	0.690324	0.949127	43.8108
Singapore	Dollar	0.479924	0.659848	30.4579
Australia	Dollar	0.627005	0.862069	39.7922
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.929399	2.652731	122.4474
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.193943	0.266652	12.3084
Brunei	Dollar	0.478346	0.657678	30.3578
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000081	0.000111	0.0051
Thailand	Baht	0.023925	0.032895	1.5184
UAE	Dirham	0.198030	0.272272	12.5678
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.374900	63.4640
Korea	Won	0.000791	0.001088	0.0502
China	Yuan**	0.096168	0.132221	6.1032
Argentina	Peso	0.234470	0.322373	14.8804
Brazil	Real	0.384829	0.529101	24.4228
Denmark	Kroner	0.134424	0.184819	8.5311
India	Rupee	0.018048	0.024814	1.1454
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.210880	0.289939	13.3833
Mexico	New Peso	0.067317	0.092554	4.2722
New Zealand	Dollar	0.566453	0.778816	35.9494
South Africa	Rand	0.103496	0.142296	6.5682
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.022208	0.030534	1.4094

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—July 11, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of July 11, 2007

Fly Again all-you-can!

FREE!

2 DOMESTIC TICKETS* FOR EVERY PURCHASE OF 1 ECONOMY CLASS DOMESTIC TICKET

SALE PERIOD: JULY 9 – 21, 2007

PLUS: Modern, French-designed, convenient terminal

PLUS: Spacious aircraft interiors and seating comfort

PLUS: Free inflight snacks & beverages, including coffee and water

PLUS: Free inflight music, film features, newspapers

PLUS: Modern fleet of B747, A340, A330, A320, and A319 aircraft

• TRAVEL VALIDITY: AUGUST 1 - OCTOBER 15, 2007 (Applies to Free and Purchased Domestic tickets)
• EXCLUSIVE OF TAXES, FEES, AND SURCHARGES
• UNTIL SUPPLY LASTS
• OTHER TRAVEL CONDITIONS APPLY

*Roundtrip or one-way Economy Class to any PAL Domestic destination Tickets purchased as one-way are entitled to free one-way domestic tickets

BECAUSE YOU DESERVE A BETTER DEAL!

Philippine Airlines
It's about experience
www.philippineairlines.com

Per CAB approval dated July 3, 2007

For more details, call PAL Reservations in Manila: (02) 855-8888, Cebu: (032) 340-0191, Davao: (082) 222-0366 or your travel agent.

Top 10,000 corporations in BIR's crosshairs

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL Revenue will be going after the country's Top 10,000 corporations that have not been withholding taxes from suppliers and remitting these taxes to the government.

BIR officials, now feeling the heat brought on by the huge shortfall in tax collection in the first half, said some large firms have been remiss in fulfilling their roles as tax-withholding agents.

BIR Deputy Commissioner Nelson Aspe said that, to help address the problem of an anemic tax take, it would be necessary for large companies to comply with their obligation of withholding taxes and remitting these promptly to the government.

Already, BIR Officer in Charge Lilian Hefti has issued a circular clarifying that large firms that buy agricultural products, such as restaurants and hotels, are required to withhold taxes from their suppliers.

Some firms belonging to the Top 10,000 believe that they are exempted from the responsibility of withholding taxes from suppliers of agriculture products.

They cited a BIR regulation, RR No. 3-2004, that suspended the need for firms to withhold income tax from agricultural suppliers.

But the BIR clarified that the regulation does not cover those belonging to the Top 10,000 corporations.

Under the National Internal Revenue Code, the top 10,000 corporations and government agencies are required to withhold from their suppliers one percent of the income arising from the sale of goods, and two percent of the income resulting from the sale of service, and then remit these to the BIR.

The BIR said in a statement that revenue officers have been directed to conduct an audit of large companies, particularly on their compliance of the withholding tax system.

In the first half, the BIR's tax collection reached only P333.3 billion, far short of its P373.3-billion target for the six-month period.

Because of the lower-than-expected tax take, the budget deficit hit P37.7 billion, higher than the cap set at P31.3 billion.

PRULINK	PRU LIFE U.K.
Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week July 10, 2007 / Last Week July 3, 2007
Bond Fund - Peso	1.58621 / 1.60157
Managed Fund - Peso	1.89768 / 1.91394
Growth Fund - Peso	1.98118 / 1.99099
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.3754 / 1.3768

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

Privatization gives . . .

From page B1

bato for another 50 MW of capacity. Both projects are scheduled for commissioning in 2010.

The 40-MW Dauin (Negros Oriental) project is targeted for commissioning by 2011, the 40-MW Tanawon (Sorsogon) development by 2012, the 40-MW Rangas (Sorsogon) project by 2013, the 40-MW Kayabon (Albay) development by 2014 and the 100-150-MW Cabalian (Southern Leyte) project by 2015.

Overall, the pipelined projects would add between 330 MW and 380 MW to the country's installed geothermal capacity.

Lotilla said the scheduled commissioning of PNOC-EDC's projects would be just in time to help meet the expected demand rise in all three main power grids in the country.

According to documents from the Department of Energy, the required capacity in Luzon will steadily increase by an average of 4.2 percent a year through 2014, representing a total of additional requirement of 1,989 MW.

For the Visayas, the required capacity is seen increasing at a rate of 6.1 percent a year, placing the necessary capacity addition at 869 MW from 2007-2014.

By 2014, the Mindanao grid will need some 826 MW of new capacity as demand is expected to rise by an average of 6.3 percent a year.

Shares close 1.63% higher

From page B1

at relatively bargain levels after the recent slide," said Lawrence de Leon of Accord Capital Equities.

"Punters went into penny stocks, while the bigger players chose blue chips that are now at more attractive levels," he said.

Rommel Macapagal of Westlink Global Equities said the market seemed to have built a strong support base at the 3,700-level and will be testing the new resistance of 3,750 points in the coming sessions. *AFP*

BSP cuts rates . . .

From page B1

low the 4-5 percent target range in 2007 and stay within the 4 percent—plus or minus 1 percentage point—target in 2008," Tetangco said.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa C. Guinigundo added that the central bank now expected the average inflation rate for 2007 to rise between 2.6 percent and 3.1 percent.

Tetangco hinted that they had few clues as to whether the economy would succumb to the effects of higher inflation or slower growth.

"The Monetary Board considers that neutrality will provide greater flexibility to the monetary authorities in the absence of a clearer direction on potential risks, such as liquidity, wage pressures and oil prices," he said.

In its assessment of economic conditions, the Monetary Board noted that recent data suggest that the additional liquidity management measures implemented in early May 2007 have begun to exert the desired cooling effect on liquidity conditions, the BSP statement said.

"Meanwhile, there are indications that the tiering scheme that has been in effect for the past eight months has had a beneficial impact on bank lending to the productive sectors of the economy," the statement added.

RP weathers crisis well . . .

From page B6

nies are better prepared."

He is convinced that companies now know better, and are more liquid. They are now more cautious in funding their expansion.

"Looking at the status of the companies now, I'm confident we are poised to take off," he added.

Proof of this is Megaworld Corp., now one of the country's biggest office and condominium builders. The company has spent the past 10 years adapting to the new environment and strengthening its financial muscle.

"All companies had a difficult time during the crisis," Megaworld executive director Kingson Sian said. "We were rumored to have financial problems, but we proved everybody wrong. We survived with flying colors."

Sian said Megaworld's first major step after the crisis was to pay off its loans. By 1999-2000, it was virtually debt-free, having only P100 million in debt on its books.

To survive, Megaworld had to evolve and go into previously untapped markets—a strategy that other crisis-struck firms have learned.

Looking forward

"We innovated by going to BPOs, the middle market and overseas Filipino workers during the crisis," Sian said. "We chose not to believe that there was no market."

At the end of the day, the question remains as to whether the country would have to go through another crisis in the future, and whether it would have learned enough lessons to survive the next round.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor Amando M. Tentangco Jr. believes there is no imminent threat of another crisis hitting local shores. In any case, he believes the country has built up enough buffer to insulate the economy.

"We are now in a better position to absorb financial shocks," he said.

Economist Johnny Noe Ravalo agrees. He believes the country is in a better position in terms of absolute numbers like the central bank's record-high dollar reserves. But impressive numbers alone would not be sufficient to protect the local economy.

"It is not the absolute size of our reserves. It is the rate at which the reserves are called into action," Ravalo said, adding that the dollar stash of any central bank around the world was almost always never enough to stem capital outflows.

Instead, Ravalo said the country should rely on structural reforms as its main line of defense from future crises.

"The question, is do we induce calm [among investors] rather than panic. We have to get rid of the panic," he said. "We have to focus on the structures rather than having more bullets."

SUPPORT CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY

CASIO

What you see is what you enter.

Natural Textbook Display

Natural, easily understandable mathematic displays featuring the same input/indications as textbooks.

Full dot display: Allows the natural input of expressions of the fraction, numerator and denominator can be clearly displayed in 2-Line just as they are written.

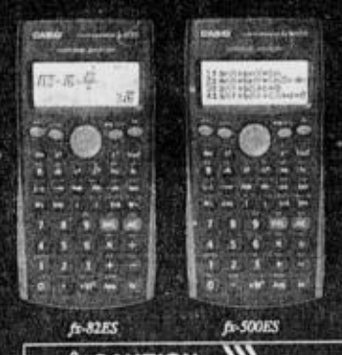
Natural output: The calculation results in irrational numbers (which have non-circulating infinite decimals such as √2 and π) can be converted to the expression using √ or π.

Sophisticated Scientific Calculators — Casio ES Series

fx-991ES 403 functions: Integration / Differential; Matrix calculations; Vector calculations; Complex number calculations; Two-way power

fx-82ES 249 functions: Table function; Fraction calculations; Combination and permutation; Statistics; AAA-size (R03) battery

fx-500ES 253 functions: Fraction calculations; Combination and permutation; Statistics; Equation calculations; AAA-size (R03) battery



CAUTION
DO NOT PUT YOUR FUTURE AT RISK!
All authentic CASIO products distributed and warranted by Business Plus are covered with one (1) year warranty and after sales service. If you want to make sure that you're getting the real deal, look for the BPM bar code seal.

www.busplusmktg.com
email: caslosales@mariusholdings.com

Imitation Product Warning:
Repair service and product support is not available to users of imitation or copied product.

AVAILABLE AT: National Book Store — All branches nationwide

METRO MANILA BRANCHES
• ANNAPOLIS • ALABANG • ALIMALL • BESTSELLER • C. RAYMUNDO • COASTAL MALL • CYBER ONE • EVER ROSARIO • FILINVEST • GLORIETTA • GRAND CENTRAL • RECTO • HARRISON PLAZA • KATIPUNAN • MARKET! MARKET! • METROPOINT • MISSOURI • NORTHRIDGE PLAZA • NEW FARMERS PLAZA • Q-PLAZA • GREENBELT • QUEZON AVE • RIZAL AVE • SHANGRILA PLAZA • ROBINSONS CAINTA • ROBINSONS PLACE ERMITA • ROBINSONS PLACE NOVALICHES • ROBINSONS GALLERIA • ROBINSONS PIONEER • SM BICUTAN • SM FAIRVIEW • SM MANILA • SM MEGAMALL • SM NORTH EDSA • SUCAT • SM SOUTHMALL • SM SAN LAZARO • SM STA. MESA • SM MALL OF ASIA • TUTUBAN • SM JR. ENZIELA • SUPERBRANCH • STA. LUCIA • SM SUCAT

PROVINCIAL BRANCHES
• ANTIPOLO • AYALA CENTER CEBU • BACOOR • SM LIPA • BAGUIO-ABANAO • BATANGAS-BAY CITY • LIMKETKAI • DAGUPAN • GAPAN • MANGO PLAZA CEBU • NEPO MALL • SUBIC • SM MOLINO • VIGAN • NEPO MALL • SM CLARK • SM ILOILO • SM LUCENA • SM BACOOR • PAVILION MALL • SM BAGUIO • SM DAVAO • SM MARILAO • CABANATUAN • SM CAGAYAN DE ORO • SM PAMPANGA • SM STA. ROSA • and other provincial branches

For inquiries please call: Business Plus
Suite 301-304 AIC Gold Tower, AIC Gold Tower F. Ortigas Jr. Road., Pasig City Tel: 637-8420-22
Cebu Ofc.: #54 T. Padilla St., Cebu City Tel: (032) 2317920

The 2007 DLSAA
Lasallian Achievement Awardees

EDGAR O. CHUA
Business management

MIGUEL C. ENRIQUEZ
Public service broadcasting

DANIEL L. LACSON, JR.
Community development

EDUARDO L. ROBERTO
Marketing research and marketing

CESARE A.X. SYJUCO
Culture & arts

EDGARDO JOSE S. VALENCIANO
Contemporary music

GEORGE T. YANG
Entrepreneurship

The 2007 DLSAA
Br. Benedict Awardee

EDUARDO R. LUCERO
Volunteer service

We salute them.

De La Salle Alumni Association

SM INVESTMENTS CORPORATION

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

We would like to inform the public that SM Investments Corporation, its subsidiaries, and affiliates are not in any way connected with SMFund.com, sminvestment.com, and any other website asking for solicitations online. Neither does the SM Group of Companies sponsor or endorse any investment scheme contained in the websites with the domain names "SMFund.com" and "sminvestment.com."

Accordingly, the SM Group of Companies is not responsible for the contents of the SMFund.com or sminvestment.com websites and it shall not be liable, directly or indirectly, for any damage caused or claimed to be caused by the use of or reliance on any such contents.

SM INVESTMENTS CORPORATION
SM Corporate Offices, Building A
1000 Bay Boulevard, SM BayCity
Pasay 1300 Philippines
Telephone Number (632) 831-1000
www.sminvestments.com

BUSINESS

ATI closes in on North, South Harbor deals

Port operator commits to invest $150M under extended contract

By Riza T. Olchondra

PORT OPERATOR ASIAN TERMINALS Inc. may get to handle two of the country's most important shipping hubs.

This possibility emerged because the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) is set to extend the company's contract as cargo handling provider for South Harbor and is awaiting documents concerning ATI's bid for the Manila North Harbor.

ATI is bidding for the port contract along with Harbour Centre and Metro Pacific Investment Corp.

PPA general manager Oscar M. Sevilla said that during talks with ATI, the company committed to invest $150 million to develop the South Harbor under the extended contract.

The contract extension, which is expected to be signed within the year, will allow ATI to provide cargo handling services at the South Harbor for another 25 years.

Sevilla added that his office has yet to receive complete eligibility papers for ATI's joint bid for the Manila North Harbor.

In 1990, PPA issued a board resolution tasking ATI to integrate arrastre, storage and stevedoring services at the South Harbor.

In 1998, PPA extended ATI's contract to 2013.

ATI committed then to accelerate the development and modernization of the South Harbor.

The investment covered the upgrading of port facilities, deployment of new equipment and streamlining of port procedures.

PPA approved the so-called South Harbor Master Plan and the initial phase started with the rehabilitation and modernization of five finger piers, expansion of the main container yard, building of separate terminals for international and general cargo areas, as well as domestic passengers and freight.

Aside from South Harbor, ATI operates ports in Bataan, Batangas and General Santos.

DOF to request ₱2-B budget to reward top collectors

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE SAID it would ask Congress for a P2-billion budget to reward top collectors of the Bureau of Customs.

Some BOC collectors are entitled to incentives after the bureau exceeded its P196-billion collection goal last year by over P2 billion.

The granting of monetary rewards is provided by the Lateral Attrition Law, which was implemented last year to help the government plug its budget deficit.

With the Bureau of Internal Revenue failing to meet its collection target last year, only top-performing collectors of the BOC are entitled to rewards.

The national government, however, failed to include the proposed rewards when it drafted the 2006 national budget.

Thus, collectors of the BOC who have exceeded their targets have yet to receive their incentives.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said he was set to discuss how the government could produce the P2 billion needed to reward the deserving BOC collectors with the Department of Budget and Management.

"We should put meaning and substance to the Lateral Attrition Law, and so the rewards should be given," Teves said in a briefing yesterday.

He said one option was to ask for a supplemental budget from Congress, but added this could eat up too much time and effort.

Another option was for the government include in the proposed 2008 national budget the P2 billion needed to reward the customs collectors.

RP recyclers earn millions from garbage

By Amy R. Remo

BY TURNING IN THEIR GARBAGE FOR ONE day a year since 2002, recyclers have earned a total of more than P2.4 million.

Since its launch five years ago, the Recyclables Collection Event has accounted for more than 1,400 cubic meters of waste—enough to fill 146 10-ton dump trucks.

Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Angelo T. Reyes explained that RCE is a one-day buying event for people who want to turn their "recyclable" trash into cash.

At the same time, he said, the event helps spread environmental consciousness.

The RCE directly benefits the environment in terms of recovering toxic gases and heavy metals that pollute the air.

"These collection events may just be a one-day affair, but their effect on us and our environment lasts a lifetime," Reyes said.

Recyclable materials accepted in buying stations are old electronics and electrical equipment, used batteries, used papers and cartons, used bottles made of PET (polyethylene terephthalate) and other plastics, used ink and toner cartridges, aluminum cans, scrap glass and used styrofoam materials.

Polyethylene terephthalate is a form of polyester used to make strong, lightweight, shatter-resistant bottles for soft drinks and water.

Dust and fumes of improperly disposed electronic products like computers, wire insulation, batteries and electrical solders contain heavy metals and hazardous chemicals.

These can be fatal when ingested or inhaled and may result in shortness of breath, coughing, chest pains and, in extreme cases, even death.

According to a consolidated report submitted by the Philippine Business for the Environment, the collection and recycling of wastes have led to the recovery of 164,288 kilos of lead, 8,900 grams of precious metals, 71,205 kilos of base metals, 1,227 kilos of aluminum, and 3,510 kilos of PET plastics.

The activity also led to the treatment of 32,858 kilos of sulfuric acid and 11,867 kilos of other toxic substances.

More than 2,000 trees were also spared due to the bulk of waste paper products that were turned in for recycling.

"Through recycling, we don't just save for profit and for the environment; we also learn to take a step towards saving our future," Reyes said.

The RCE, established by a number of companies including the PBE and Ayala Foundation Inc., promotes the 3Rs in solid waste management: Reuse, recycle and reduce.

DBP, First Metro buy PPA bonds

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY SOLD P2 billion worth of seven-year bonds to Development Bank of the Philippines and First Metro Investment Corp. to fund its port modernization project.

PPA General Manager Oscar Sevilla told reporters the port authority would withdraw the first P1 billion on Monday.

"DBP and First Metro bought it all, so we (PPA) will get the money by Monday," Sevilla said at the 33rd anniversary celebration of the port authority.

The bond, which carries a seven percent interest rate, with a maturity of seven years, was the first capital transaction of PPA this year.

The proceeds from the bond issuance will benefit seven ports to be upgraded to international standards starting this year.

They are located in Davao, Zamboanga, General Santos, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro, Misamis and Ozamiz.

These ports handle about 40 percent to 50 percent of the entire cargo flow in the country, PPA assistant general Raul Santos said in an earlier interview.

The development of major ports is in line of the government's Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan 2004 to 2010.

Excellent Address. El Jardin del Presidente 2. The follow-up to the well-received El Jardin del Presidente. Like its predecessor, it offers a winning formula that blends the past and the present to create an aura of classic elegance. Blue-tiled roof crown. Crescent-shaped balconies. Elegant wrought-iron gates. Enhancing these exterior touches are friendly features such as a landscaped arrival court with fountain. Swimming and wading pools. Children's playground. Lush walkways and perimeter fence. Inside is a cozy lobby. And there are only 12 residential units per floor, each one enfolding you in style and comfort. Underground parking is available. And you'll feel safe with 24-hour security.

Excellent Location. You're right in the center of the action, between the ABS-CBN and GMA 7 headquarters along Sgt. E.A. Esguerra Street in Quezon City. Close to the MRT3. Near schools such as St. Mary's College, Ateneo, Miriam and UP. Private and government offices. Hospitals. Tomas Morato's restaurant and bar scene. And EDSA's giant malls.

Excellent Price. El Jardin del Presidente 2 is an investment of exceptional value that can be yours for as low as ₱9,088 a month. NO DOWNPAYMENT. ZERO INTEREST.

Come visit the new model unit at the site. Mondays through Sundays, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Tel: 926-0002

E-mail:info@oceanicrealty.com.ph

For Announcement Purposes Only

Voted No. 1 Philippine Company in *FinanceAsia's* Best-managed Asian Companies Survey in 2007

www.megaworldcorp.com
ISO 9001:2000 CERTIFIED

Developer:

MEGAWORLD CORPORATION

A Member of:

ALLIANCE GLOBAL

BUSINESS Friday

E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/business
Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Video did not kill the radio star

One FM radio station makes itself sound like an iPod to attract more listeners and stem declining revenue

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

PUNDITS SAY ONE OF THE reasons why the number of people listening to the radio is going down nowadays is because people prefer to listen to their iPods and MP3 players.

Translation: They want to listen to their personal choice of music uninterrupted.

Because of stiff competition, some radio stations try to beat each other by playing almost the same kind of music.

Others try to be different by building "radio personalities" and create a following for these deejays.

FM 92.3, more popularly known as "Joey 92.3," did one notch better. It reformatted its programming to make it, according to the executives of the National Broadcasting Corp. which owns the station, sound like an iPod.

Thus, from Joey 92.3 which played jazz and popular music, the station began playing different music—those rarely or not usually heard in other radio stations.

There are no more deejays and no interesting or boring talks; there are no news reports. It's just music that you either love or hate.

The NBC also gave it a new name—XFM.

Raymund T. Miranda, the newly hired big boss at the NBC, says the changes were a response to declining revenues and technology-driven developments in the music industry.

Before his NBC stint, Miranda was former managing director of Walt Disney Co. for Southeast Asia and head of Disney TV Southeast Asia and Korea.

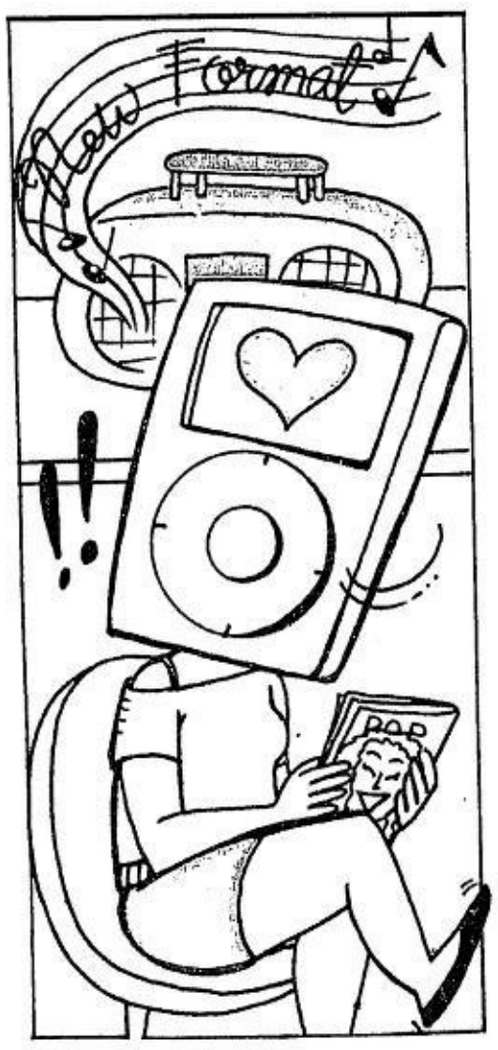
He actually started his career as a deejay and was also in charge of Disney Radio.

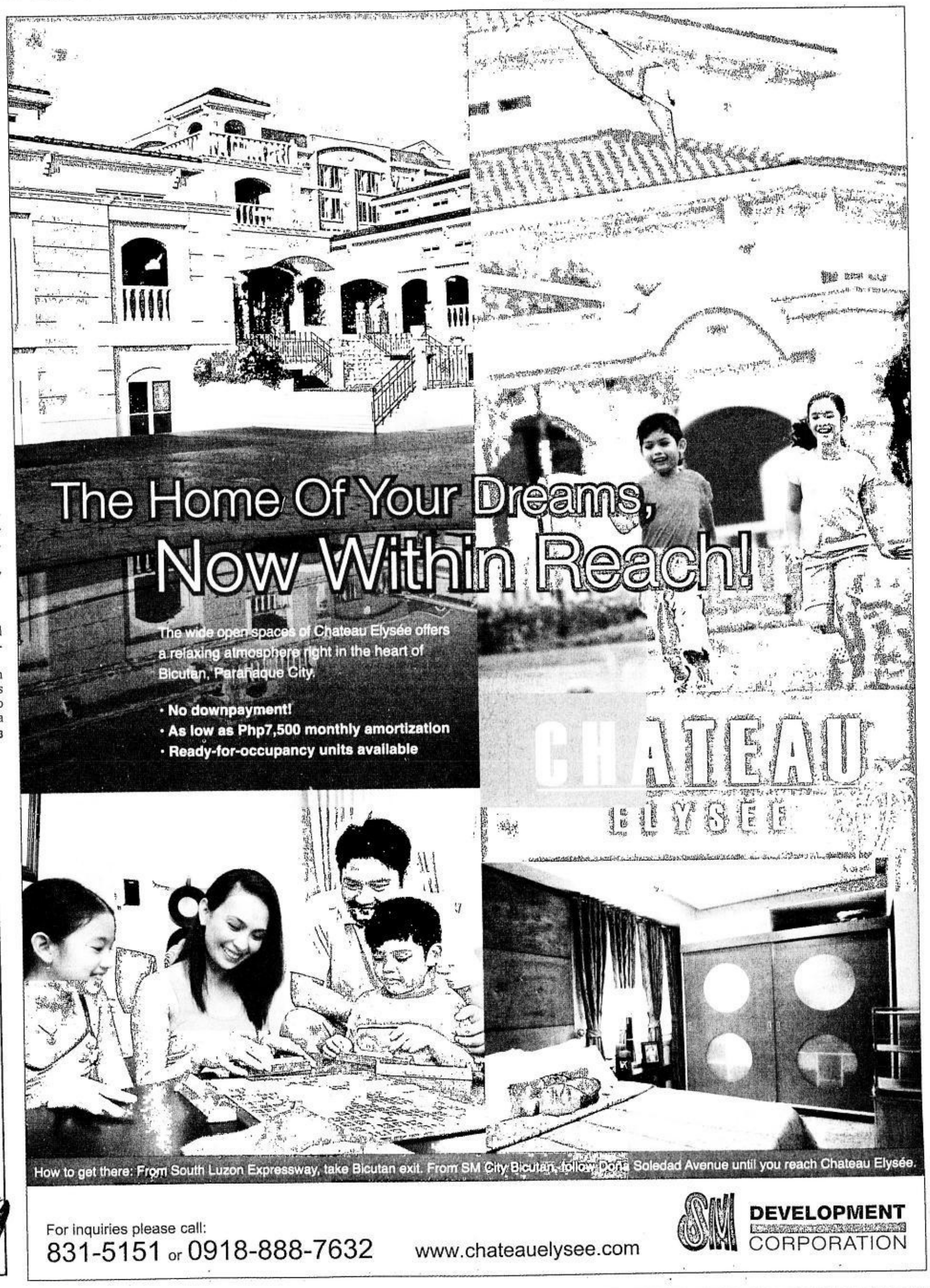
Challenges

In a chat with Business Friday, Raymund talked about the changes NBC recently adopted for 92.3.

"Studies show a decline in listenership in the AB and upper C market. The stations which target almost the same market of 16- to 23-year-olds and all play Beyoncé, there is a

VIDEO/ B2-3





League of Corporate Foundations
CSR EXPO 2007
Putting CSR to the Test
Cultivating Shared Values for Business and Society

16 -18 July 2007 • Sofitel Philippine Plaza Manila, Pasay City

Ensuring business growth

Sustaining the environment

Making education a national priority

All in a day's work.
It's actually easy to do.
Find out how.

For details, contact the LCF Secretariat at (632) 892.9189, telefax (632) 892.9084 or email secretariat@lcf.org.ph or lcf_users@yahoo.com.

Visit us also at www.csrexpo2007.net for program details to this event.

DAY 1 • Monday, 16 July
INTEGRATING BUSINESS AND SOCIETY

9:00am - Opening Ceremonies & 1st Morning Plenary
- *Welcoming Remarks and CSR Expo 2007 Overview* by LYDIA SARMIENTO, LCF Advisory Board Member; Chair, Sarmiento Foundation
- *Investing in Education* by DR. CHRISTOPHER THOMAS, Sector Manager for Education in the East Asia and Pacific Region, World Bank
- *The Need for More Education Champions* by SEC. JESLI LAPUS, Department of Education
- *Overview on the State of the Philippine Environment* by ELISEA GOZUN, UNEP Champion of the Earth

10:00am - 2nd Morning Plenary: Keynote Address
- *The Philippine CSR Report 2007 and the CSR Roadmap* by MARILOU ERNI, LCF President and Exec. Director, Petron Foundation
- *Declaration of Support to the CSR Education Roadmap: Towards Making Education a National Priority by the private sector*
- *Ceremonial Presentation of the Signed MOU on the 57-75 Education Campaign among 57-75 partners*
- *Introduction of Keynote Speaker* by SEC. JESLI LAPUS, Department of Education
- *Keynote Address* by H.E. PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Philippines

12:00nn - Luncheon Plenary (by invitation)
Joint General Membership Meeting of the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP), the Makati Business Club (MBC), and the League of Corporate Foundations (LCF)
- *Strategic Corporate Social Responsibility*
  Main Speaker: MANUEL PANGILINAN, Chairman, PLDT
  CEO Speakers Panel: AMB. CESAR BAUTISTA, Co-Chair, National Competitive Council; and EDGAR CHUA, Country Chairman, Shell companies in the Philippines

2:00pm - Afternoon Plenary 1
- *Stakeholder Engagement: The Guimaras Case*
  Speakers Panel: SEC. RAFAEL COSCOLLUELA, Pres. Asst. for W. Visayas and Incident Commander, Task Force Solar Oil Spill (SOS); DR. GLENN AGUILAR, Chancellor, UP Visayas; and KHALID AL-FADDAGH, President, Petron

3:30pm - Afternoon Plenary 2
- *Launching of the CSR Institute – A Flagship Program of the LCF*
  Speakers: LYDIA SARMIENTO, Chair, LCF CSR Institute; Chair, Sarmiento Foundation and DR. BENITO TEEHANKEE, President, Philippine Academy of Management
- *Sustainability Reporting: The Global Reporting Initiative Model* by RALPH ANDREAS THURM, COO, Global Reporting Initiative, Amsterdam

5:00pm - Integration Session
- *Day 1 Integration* by AURORA TOLENTINO, LCF Advisory Council Member and Chief Executive, Asia-Pacific Philanthropy Consortium

6:00pm - AMORE Fellowship Night Cocktails (by invitation)

CSR INSTITUTE: CSR 101 Programs

* No CSR 101 Program for Monday, 16 July *

DAY 2 • Tuesday, 17 July
- *CSR: Theory and Practice* by NATALIE CHRISTINE JORGE, Director for Programs and Research, Bato-Balani Foundation Inc.
- *Community Partnerships*
  Speakers Panel: LEMIA SIMBULAN, Exec. Director, Andres Soriano Foundation Inc. and COSETTE REALICA, Exec. Director, Foundation for Sight
- *Charities Aid Foundation Session*
  Speakers Panel: DUNCAN POWER, Exec. Director, Charities Aid Foundation Australia
- *Monitoring, Evaluating, and Reporting CSR: Benchmarking*
  Speakers Panel: MA. DIVINA DE LEON, Operations Manager, Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. and ARLITA NARAG, Corporate Affairs Manager, Intel Phils.

DAY 3 • Wednesday, 18 July
- *Communicating CSR: Internal and External*
  Speakers Panel: JUNIE DEL MUNDO, Managing Director, EON and ROCKY SANCHEZ-TIRONA, Managing Director & Head of Creatives, Campaigns Social Response
- *Employee Engagement and Volunteerism* by MAX VENTURA, E.D., Philam Foundation Inc.
- *Charities Aid Foundation Session* by JOHN WINKETT, Deputy Exec. Director, Charities Aid Foundation Australia
- *PCNC Accreditation and Setting Up a Corporate Foundation*
  Speakers Panel: FELY SOLEDAD, Exec. Director, Philippine Council for NGO Certification and MA. VICTORIA SARMIENTO, President and Exec. Director, Sarmiento Foundation

DAY 2 • Tuesday, 17 July
CREATING A CORPORATE SOCIAL VISION

7:30am - Breakfast Forum
- *How To's of Sustainability Reporting: The Global Reporting Initiative Model*
  Speakers: RALPH ANDREAS THURM, COO, Global Reporting Initiative, Amsterdam; ANNE COPELAND CHIU, Environment and Social Specialist, International Finance Corporation; and JERIC SEVILLA, JR., Corporate Communications and Sustainable Development Manager, Manila Water Company

9:00am - Morning Plenary 1
- *Global Trends in CSR and Philanthropy: Creating Shared Values*
  Main Speaker: TERRY FARRIS, Head of Philanthropy Services, UBS Asia-Pacific
  CEO Speakers Panel: KANDY ANAND, President, Coca-Cola Far East Ltd.; RUFINO DELA ROSA, President, Chowking Business Unit (Jollibee Group); and HANS SY, President, SM Prime Holdings, Inc. (invited)
- *Turn-over of the Grant for the LCF ArtsConnection Program*

10:30am - Morning Plenary 2
- *The Social Agenda Identified: 57-75 Campaign*
  Speaker: MARIO DERIQUITO, Head, Taskforce 57-75; CSD Director, Ayala Foundation
- *Presentation of the 57-75 Leaders Council*
  Speaker: ANICETO SOBREPEÑA, LCF Representative to the 57-75 Leader's Council, LCF Advisory Council Member and President, Metrobank Foundation
- *Ceremonial Signing of the MOA on the 57-75 Campaign between the 57-75 Consortium and the DepEd Pilot Provinces/Cities/Towns*

12:00nn - Luncheon Plenary (by invitation)
- *A CEO Perspective: Creating a Corporate Social Vision* by JAIME AUGUSTO ZOBEL DE AYALA II, Chairman and CEO, Ayala Corporation

2:00pm - Finding-a-Fit to the 57-75 Campaign Breakout Workshops (FFB)

A. *Health: Feed the Body, Feed the Mind*
  Speakers Panel: CONG. HERMINIO TEVES, 3rd District Negros Oriental and MARIA AURORA GLORIA, Vice-President, Kabisig ng Kalahi

B. *Entrepreneurship: Tara! Magnegosyo Tayo!*
  Speakers Panel: MARIA PAMELA CASTRO, Chair, LCF Entrepreneurship Committee and Program Manager, Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc.

C. *Arts and Culture: ArtConnection*
  Speakers Panel: CATALINO INOVERO, Division Education Supervisor, Special Events / Art Education, DepEd – Bulacan; and JOHN SILVA, Sr. Consultant, National Museum of the Filipino People

D. *Education: Of Prototypes and Archetypes: The Quintessential 57-75er (A Fitting Exercise)*
  Speakers Panel: MA. ANGELES GUANZON-LAPEÑA, Asst. Prof., DLSU Psychology Dept. and Resource Person, Philippine Psychology Research and Training House (Tulong Aral ng Petron); DAVID LIBAN JR., Direct Marketing Coordinator, World Vision Development Foundation (Tulong Aral ng Petron); and CATHY KO, Real Estate Division Head, Ortigas and Co. Limited Partnership

3:30pm - Sharing the Corporate Social Vision - Consortium Building Breakout (CBB)

A. *Health: Broadening the Discussion on Health*
  Speakers Panel: ASEC. DR. MARIO VILLAVERDE, Department of Health and EMMANUEL LEYCO, Professor, AIM

B. *Entrepreneurship: Accelerating Ideas, Developing Connections*
  Speakers Panel: DANILO SONGCO, Project Manager, PinoyME and RAMON LOPEZ, Exec. Director, Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship

C. *Youth: Developing Future CSR Champions*
  Speakers Panel: DR. CONRADO IÑIGO, Chair, CHED Technical Committee for Business Administration and VP, Centro Escolar University; DIONISIO PAPELLERAS, Director, Center for Social Responsibility, UA&P; ROSAURO LUNTAYAO, Chair, LCF Youth Committee and Exec. Director, Roxas Gorgollo Foundation; and JOAN YAO, Editor-in-Chief, SLATE Magazine, ADMU

D. *Education: Brigada Teknolohiya: Gaining Ground through ICT (GILAS, AMORE, CyberEd)*
  Speakers Panel: ARCHIMEDES VELASCO, Manager, GILAS Mindanao; TETCHI CRUZ-CAPELLAN, Chief-of-Party, AMORE; JESS MATEO, Director, Educational Development Projects Implementing Task Force (EDPITAF), Department of Education

5:00pm - Integration Session
- *Day 2 Integration* by MAX VENTURA, Exec. Director, Philam Foundation

6:00pm - YouthRock for CSR: RockEd Night with Coke Barkada (open to the public)

DAY 3 • Monday, 18 July
CSR AND THE ENVIRONMENT

7:30am - Breakfast Forum (limited seats)
- *Life and Livelihood: Sustaining the Tubbataha Reefs and the Sulu Sea*
  Speakers Panel: MAYOR JOEL CARCELER of Cagayancillo; ANGELIQUE SONGCO, Park Manager, Tubbataha Management Office and JOSE MA. LORENZO TAN, President, WWF-Philippines

9:00am - Morning Plenary
- *The Center of Biodiversity: Verde Island Passage*
  Speakers Panel: GOV. VILMA SANTOS-RECTO, Province of Batangas (invited); KENT CARPENTER, Coordinator, Global Marine Species Assessment of the World Conservation Union and DR. ROMY TRONO, Country Exec. Director, Conservation International Philippines

10:30am - Breakout Sessions: 1

A. *Eco-Tourism: Preserving Our Natural Treasures*
  Speakers Panel: PRISCILLA CALIMAG, Chief Eco-Systems Management Specialist and Project Coordinator for Eco-Tourism, Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau, DENR; IRMA MARCELO, Exec. Director, El Nido Foundation; and GOV. TEODORO BAGUILAT, JR, Province of Ifugao, and President, Save the Ifugao Terraces Movement

B. *Waste Diversion: Don't Let Your Waste Go to Waste*
  Speakers Panel: RAQUEL HULIGANGA, Project Director, Philippine Efficient Lighting Market Transformation Project, Dept. of Energy; RONALD GASPAR, Education Sector Head, Toyota (to present on LCF Members Waste Market Initiatives); and ATTY. ZOILO L. ANDIN, Exec. Director, National Solid Waste Management Commission (invited)

C. *Save Money and Save the Earth*
  Speakers Panel: RUSS ALFONSO, Managing Director, Megaman Lighting Philippines, JONATHAN SO, President, Eatware Co. Ltd., and PACITA JUAN, LCF VP for Marketing and Business Development and CEO, Figaro Coffee Company

12:00nn - Luncheon Plenary (special "green" lunch; fund raiser for the LCF Green Fund)
- *An Inconvenient Truth: Climate Change and Its Impact on the Philippines* by JOSE MA. LORENZO TAN, President, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Philippines
  Speakers Panel: PAUL AQUINO, President and CEO, PNOC-EDC; and SEC. RAPHAEL LOTILLA, Department of Energy
  Closing Speaker: SEC. ANGELO REYES, Department of Environment and Natural Resources

2:00pm - Breakout Sessions: 2

A. *Financing for Sustainable Development*
  Speakers Panel: AURORA MAGHIRANG, SAVP, Development Bank of the Philippines; MICHAEL ATRIGENIO, Philippines Grant Manager, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund; and LEIGH TALMAGE-PEREZ, President, Asian Conservation Company

B. *Water, Waste Water, and Sanitation Management*
  Speakers Panel: GERRY PARCO, Sanitation Specialist, Sustainable Coastal Tourism in Asia Project; LISA LUMBAO, Project Manager, Local Initiative for Affordable Waste Water Treatment; and RONNEL ANDAYA, Information and Education Committee Chairman, Save Silang-Santa Rosa River Foundation, Inc.

C. *Clean Air: Living to Breathe*
  Speakers Panel: RENATO GOCO, Chief of Party, Energy and Clean Air Project; ROLAND ODENTHAL, President, Robert Bosch Philippines; and JACK YABUT, President, Firefly Brigade

3:30pm - Breakout Sessions: 3

A. *Social Processes for Environmental Sustainability*
  Speakers Panel: AGNES DE JESUS, SVP, PNOC-EDC; NELIA HALCON, Exec. VP, Chamber of Mines; ATTY. DILBERT QUETULIO, Acting Secretary, Committee on Ecology, House of Representatives; and YUE-LANG FENG, Principal Environment Specialist, ADB

B. *Greening the Supply Chain*
  Speakers Panel: JESS REYES, Safety, Health and Environment Head, Nestle Philippines; BARTOLOME SARANGAYA, Director, Panasonic Manufacturing Philippines Corporation (invited); JESUS MOTOOMULL, Director, DTI-Bureau of Product Standards

C. *Greening Buildings, Greening Communities, Greening Lives*
  Speakers Panel: ARCHT. FELINO PALAFOX, JR., Founder, Managing Partner, and Principal Architect, Palafox Associates and ARCHT. ROBERT MIRAFUENTE, Member, Green Architecture Movement, United Architects of the Philippines

5:00pm Closing Plenary and Closing Ceremonies
- *Day 3 Integration* by PACITA JUAN, LCF VP for Marketing and Business Development and CEO, Figaro Coffee Company

CLOSING CEREMONIES AND CELEBRATION: LIVE CSR!
- *CSR Expo 2007 Integration* by ROBERTO CALINGO, Chairman, LCF and Representative, TeaM Energy
- Live CSR! with Behind Closed Doors

Strategic Partner: TeaM Energy

Institutional Partner

Major Partners: Ayala Social Initiatives · Petron · PNOC · Shell · Tan Yan Kee Foundation, Inc.

Media Partners: Philippine Daily Inquirer · ANC

Patrons: Splash · aboitiz · PLDT Smart

Donors: Holcim · Pfizer · SPi · Unilever

Organizing Partners

Coca-Cola • EON The Stakeholder Relations Firm • Figaro Coffee Company • Globe Telecom/Innove Communications • Ideals Creatives • Jesus V. del Rosario Foundation • Nestlé • Philippine Airlines Foundation
The North Face • TeamAsia • Toyota Motor Philippines Foundation • World Wide Fund for Nature-Philippines

No filing fees for APIC

By John Peter Ferdinand S. Echiverri and Jose A. Osana
SGV & Co.

TAX-FILES
SGV&Co.

GOOD NEWS FOR TROUBLED COMPANIES.

The Securities and Exchange Commission recently resolved that it is no longer mandatory for companies to file an application for approval with the SEC if it wants to create Additional Paid-In Capital or "APIC." This means that companies will not have to pay additional filing fees that used to be required to be paid to the SEC for such filings.

APIC is a term used to refer to the additional contribution by the stockholders of a corporation in the form of donated surplus without the corporation issuing additional shares. The creation of APIC is usually resorted to by distressed companies undergoing corporate rehabilitation and restructuring.

Requiring additional funds for its operations, a corporation may, for instance, ask its stockholders to increase their total investment in the business in the form of cash or property. Another instance is where the corporation is allowed by its stockholders to convert the debts owed to the said stockholders into additional equity.

In this case, APIC is created to reduce or wipe out the corporation's deficits.

Through SEC Resolution No. 27, series of 2006, the SEC resolved the deletion of the filing fees imposed on the creation of APIC from its schedule of charges and fees. It stated that the reason for the imposition of the filing fee no longer exists and that the commission's policies are dynamic, evolving and relevant to the capital market developments. Hence, it is no longer accepting any applications for the creation of APIC.

The move to delete the filing fees stems from the clamor of distressed corporations who complained that they should not be charged with this additional burden. In the said resolution, the SEC recognized that it should assist distressed corporations as an implementation of the state policy to establish a socially conscious free market that regulates itself.

However, the resolution does not only apply to distressed companies but to any company which wishes to increase its paid-in capital.

Prior to the said resolution, companies have to seek approval from the SEC before they can proceed with the conversion of their debts into equity resulting in the increase of their APIC.

This involves the submission of numerous documents which takes time and effort on the part of the distressed company.

Now, no approval is needed. All that a company has to do is record the debt to equity conversion and the resulting increase in its APIC directly into their financial statements which will then be submitted to the SEC as part of its reportorial requirements.

The SEC recognized that the creation of APIC is an internal matter which the government need not get involved in. In fact, the creation of APIC, wherein no shares of stock are issued, has been ruled as exempted by the Bureau of Internal Revenue from income and donor's taxes.

Be that as it may, the SEC said that it will not close its doors to companies who want to get a formal approval for the increase of their APIC.

The SEC clarified that although it is not mandatory, it is also not prohibited. So companies may voluntary file their applications for the creation of APIC with the SEC merely for confirmation instead of a direct application for approval. These applications will be received at the company registration and monitoring department or CRMD at the SEC building.

This recent SEC directive should be a welcome development to distressed companies, as the SEC has finally given in to the clamor from the private sector to do away with the process of filing an application and paying filing fees for debt to equity conversions resulting in APIC.

What otherwise would have been paid for filing fees may now be put to more productive use and the road to recovery of distressed companies would definitely be an easier one.

Nielsen to focus on time spent, not page views, in measuring website popularity

NEW YORK—A LEADING ONLINE measurement service will scrap rankings based on the longtime industry yardstick of page views and begin tracking how long visitors spend at the sites.

The move by Nielsen/NetRatings, expected to be announced Tuesday, comes as online video and new technologies increasingly make page views less meaningful.

Although Nielsen already measures average time spent and average number of sessions per visitor for each site, it will start reporting total time spent and sessions for all visitors to give advertisers, investors and analysts a broader picture of what sites are most popular.

Currently, sites and advertisers often use page views to measure the popularity of websites.

However, Yahoo! Inc. and others are increasingly using a software trick called Ajax to improve the user experience. It allows sites to update data automatically and continually, without users needing to pull up new pages. Page views decline as a result.

Page views also drop as people spend more time watching online video at sites like YouTube.

"Based on everything that's going on with the influx of Ajax and streaming, we feel total minutes is the best gauge for site traffic," said Scott Ross, director of product marketing at Nielsen. "We're changing our stance on how the data should be used."

Nielsen will still provide page view figures but won't formally rank them. Ross said page view remains a valid gauge of a site's ad inventory, but time spent is better for capturing the level of engagement users have with a site.

Ranking top sites by total minutes instead of page views gives Time Warner Inc.'s AOL a boost, largely because time spent on its popular instant-messaging software now gets counted. AOL ranks first in the United States with 25 billion minutes based on May data, ahead of Yahoo!'s 20 billion. By page views, AOL would have been sixth. *AP*

Sun launches new deal on cheaper text rates

AFTER THE SUCCESS OF THE P25 one-day Call and Text Unlimited service, Sun Cellular is launching a new offer that brings load prices at an all-time low—Sun TU 15.

The deal offers nonstop Sun-to-Sun texting for 24 hours at a cost of P15. The deal also includes free 10-minutes worth of Sun-to-Sun voice calls.

With Sun's TU 15, students can easily communicate with their schoolmates about projects and assignments.

Parents, on the other hand, can easily check on their kids in school any time throughout the day at a price that is easy on the pocket.

Sun's TU 15 is now available through Xpressload at all Sun loading stations.

NESTLÉ and Publicis Manila received the gold winner trophy during the 2nd Integrated Marketing Communications Effectiveness Awards from IMCEA Advisory Board chairman Javier Calero, (left) and Business World Publishing Corp. president and CEO Barbara Locsin (5th from right) held at the University of Asia and the Pacific in Ortigas.
RODEL ROTONI

Video did not kill the radio star

From page B2-1

certain amount of sameness," said Miranda.

He said NBC took particular interest at a US study which showed that people who used iPods are also the biggest listeners of radio. The study interviewed 36,000 people.

These consumers still look upon radio to spot new trends in music. "They look at radio to be the authority of music," he said.

Difficult question

Thus the decision to reformat. But a difficult question faced the group: Do they drop the name "Joey" which has become quite popular already and has acquired a brand name?

Raymund said the target audience of Joey was the 30- to 35-year-olds. They wanted a bigger slice of the consumer pie—the 18- to 29-year-olds.

Thus they decided to change the name and chose XFM.

Unknown variable

"X is an unknown variable. Music changes very quickly and people evolve—your seven-year-old now is different from the seven-year-old two years from now," he explained.

He added that 83 percent of their target audience values variety. So today, XFM plays music that is not available in the market. It gets most of its choices abroad.

He said they have a play list of about 1,000 songs so a song gets rotated every three days. You don't hear it on the same time each day.

To Miranda, programming is a "craft, a blend of art and science."

"It is important that you know the rules but some of the greatest musicians broke the rules like the Beatles or (Burt) Bacharach."

He added there is more science available now than in the past. "You don't underestimate the audience. It is now a transparent age."

In making the change, Raymund quoted former GE CEO Jack Welch who said, "If the rate of change inside is slower than outside, then the end is near."

The reformat was implemented last April, during Easter Sunday. Is it working?

'Chill out' music

Miranda said some advertisers have adopted a wait-and-see attitude. But he added the reformat has created a stir in certain groups—blogs have talked about the new music the station plays.

Listeners have referred to it as "chill out, trip hop, electronica, new jazz, ambient, lounge, eclectic," and so on. Miranda said the genre has found its way to commercials and movies like American Beauty and Cruel Intentions and TV series such as House, Grey's Anatomy and 4400.

Know your customer

Miranda said some of the songs are actually old but are somehow becoming popular now. He takes a direct hand in the choice of music played on the station which runs for 24 hours, interrupted only by ads.

For now it is too early to judge the success of the reformat. But Miranda said the key is to know your customer, to be in touch with them.

He also said the '80s song that "video killed the radio star" was definitely not true.

Text-based ads you'll love to receive

From page B2-4

ceive text messages even while driving.

Pesch says the Philippines will continue to be at the forefront of mobile innovation, making it an ideal place to launch new products and services, as well as push existing products that can still make a lot of difference in the market.

Asia, in general, is showing a huge growth potential in the long term.

"Asia has this certain thirst for services, making it very accepting of new services that are rolled out. The Philippine market remains a driver for innovation because of the way text messaging is being used here. Texting has become a worldwide phenomenon, and is now part of everybody's lives, but more so in this country," Pesch says.

BUSINESS Friday

Text-based ads you'll love to receive

Advertisers eye unobtrusive messages to push products

By Abigail L. Ho

MESSAGES PROMOTING A wireless operator's new service or coaxing subscribers to join electronic raffles by downloading ringtones or wallpapers—everyone who owns a cellular phone in the country must have received at least one such message.

Cellular operators refer to these as "push marketing" tools. Most mobile subscribers, however, see these as nothing but spam, or messages that are usually useless to the recipient and serve no other purpose but to flood one's inbox.

Since local mobile operators started doing push marketing some years ago, the National Telecommunications Commission had been flooded with complaints about such messages.

Some wireless subscribers said these were obtrusive; others cried these were nothing but a ploy to rob them of their credits.

Considering these complaints, it may seem like suicide for advertisers to use the mobile channel to promote their goods and services. After all, they would not want to be associated with something that many consumers see as obtrusive and useless.

Boudewijn Pesch, managing director for Asia Pacific at technology provider Acision, says advertisers can still turn this seeming disadvantage to their favor with the help of the mobile operators and some new technologies.

Knowing the subscriber

The trick to successful mobile advertising, he says, is knowing how to use available subscriber information to "push" only ads that are specifically relevant to each subscriber.

"For mobile ads, you don't just send spam. You have to target your ads. Customer profiles should be used to deliver relevant advertising," Pesch says.

Mobile operators, he adds, should use solutions that will allow them to boost their traffic and at the same time provide them with new revenue streams via mobile ad placements.

"Operators really have to look at innovations, at efficient customer information management," he says.

In a country like the Philippines where more than 90 percent of mobile subscribers are on the prepaid charging scheme, he says operators can use trends—downloads, in particular—to determine which ads will be relevant to which subscribers.

GERALD SUMPTER

"Success will really depend on being able to target the specific market," says Acision head of worldwide sales and operations Gerald Sumpter.

Using freebies

Not only is it important to know which ads are relevant to which subscribers, but it is also crucial for operators to incorporate mobile ads into their existing services to make them less obtrusive.

BOUDEWIJN PESCH

"The ads need to be on the regular touch points that the operator already has. For example, the ads can be along the lines of 'this missed call notification is brought to you by Coke.' If ads can come with services that subscribers can appreciate, such as a missed call notification, then they won't be seen as obtrusive, but will even be seen as a value-added service," Pesch explains.

Glenn Salavarria, Acision's country manager for the Philippines, says operators and advertisers can also go the way of "sponsored messages."

For example, an operator can get a potential advertiser such as McDonalds to buy a chunk of message bandwidth—say, 1,000 messages—which can then be used in unobtrusive advertising.

These messages can be pushed to mobile subscribers, but instead of just an outright ad, these can offer a number of free text messages to the recipients.

"If you get a message saying you get five free text messages from McDonalds, will you still see that as obtrusive? Most likely not. Because just by receiving an ad from McDonalds via text, you get to enjoy five text messages for free," Salavarria says.

He reveals that Acision is already holding talks with the country's mobile operators for possible deals involving mobile advertising and some new technology that may just revolutionize the world of texting as we know it.

Super SMS

"There's a high level of interest from the telcos. That's what we're working on now," he says.

Apart from solutions that will allow mobile operators to cash in on mobile advertising, he says Acision is also offering local cellular firms its "Message Plus" or "Super SMS" product.

The product will allow a mobile phone to act like a company's e-mail network, in the sense that it can also generate automated messages when the user is, say, out of the country or cannot get to his mobile phone right away.

It will also enable sending of text messages to multiple users without having to tick the name of each targeted recipient from one's phonebook.

"Like the usual office e-mail, Message Plus can generate out-of-office replies and auto replies. We see a high potential here, as mobile operators have shown a high level of interest in the product. We're just on the initial stages of talks right now, but they're really interested," Salavarria says.

Hotbed of innovation

Another offering in the pipeline is the text-to-speech or speech-to-text technology that is most useful for visually impaired individuals. It can also be used by motorists who want to send or re-

TEXT-BASED/ B2-3

1 CARTRIDGE.
349 PESOS.
450 PAGES*.
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT.

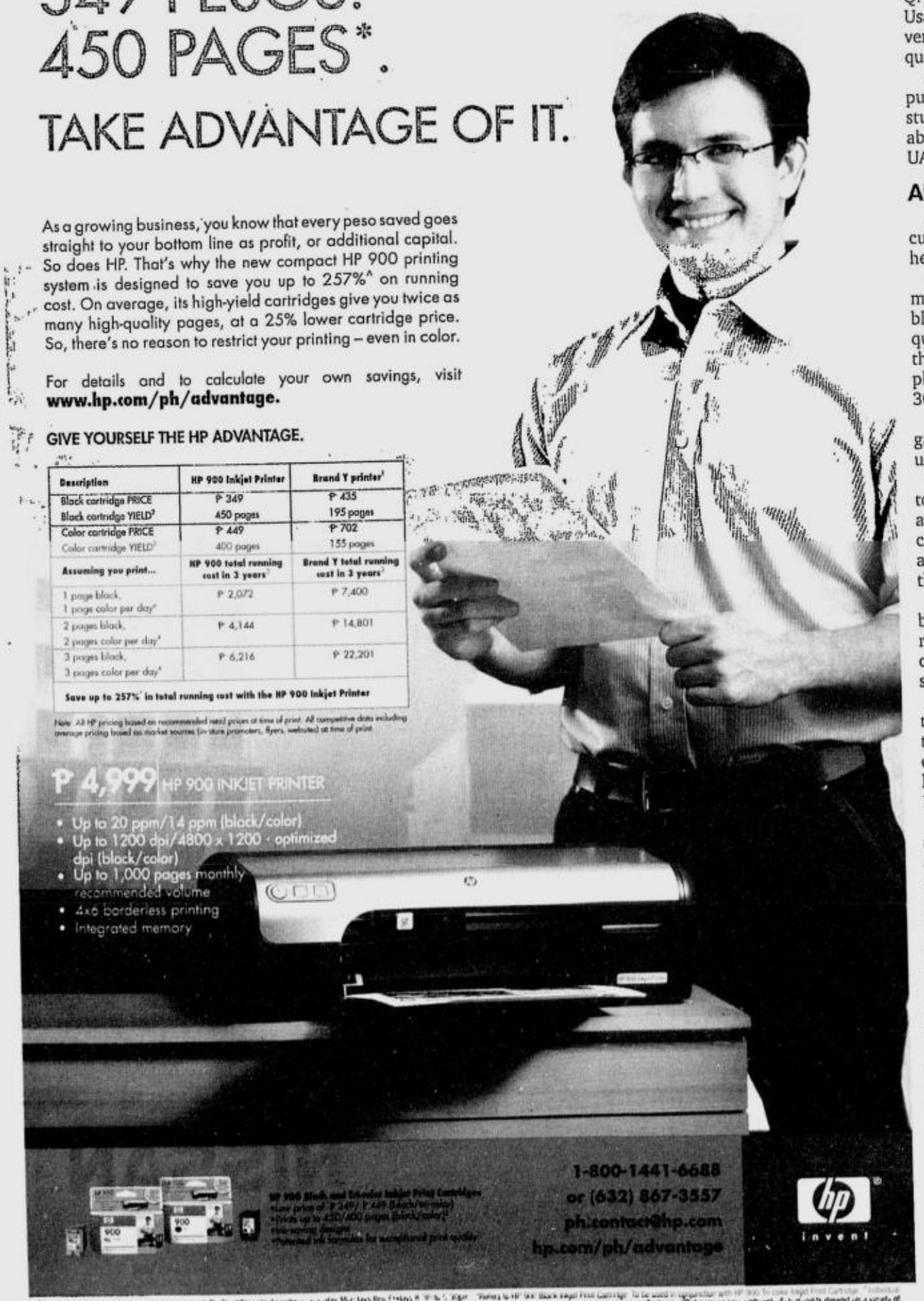
As a growing business, you know that every peso saved goes straight to your bottom line as profit, or additional capital. So does HP. That's why the new compact HP 900 printing system is designed to save you up to 257%^ on running cost. On average, its high-yield cartridges give you twice as many high-quality pages, at a 25% lower cartridge price. So, there's no reason to restrict your printing – even in color.

For details and to calculate your own savings, visit **www.hp.com/ph/advantage.**

GIVE YOURSELF THE HP ADVANTAGE.

Description	HP 900 Inkjet Printer	Brand Y printer[1]
Black cartridge PRICE	₱ 349	₱ 435
Black cartridge YIELD[2]	450 pages	195 pages
Color cartridge PRICE	₱ 449	₱ 702
Color cartridge YIELD[2]	400 pages	155 pages
Assuming you print...	HP 900 total running cost in 3 years[3]	Brand Y total running cost in 3 years[3]
1 page black, 1 page color per day[4]	₱ 2,072	₱ 7,400
2 pages black, 2 pages color per day[4]	₱ 4,144	₱ 14,801
3 pages black, 3 pages color per day[4]	₱ 6,216	₱ 22,201
Save up to 257%^ in total running cost with the HP 900 Inkjet Printer		

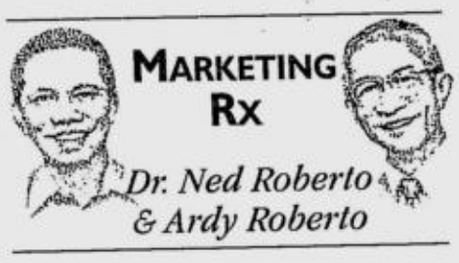
Note: All HP pricing based on recommended retail prices at time of print. All competitive data including average pricing based on market sources (in-store promoters, flyers, websites) at time of print.



©2007 Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P. The HP Contact Center is available Mon-Sat, 8am-6pm. Prices* "Varies by HP 900 Black Inkjet Print Cartridge. To be used in conjunction with HP 900 Tri-color Inkjet Print Cartridge. [1]Comparable printer models chosen for comparison are of similar technical specifications. [2]Reference page yields only. Actual yields depend on a variety of factors including the type and frequency of printing. Tests have shown that HP printers and cartridges use ink more efficiently than other brands, printing efficiency reduces the variance between reference and actual yields. See www.hp.com/ph/suppliesyield for details. [3]Printer ownership is averaged at 3 years for small businesses, per IIS Consulting data. [4]Assume average black document with 5% page coverage, color document with 15% page coverage. Actual page coverage dependent on actual printing application.

PARTICIPATING DEALERS:
METRO MANILA: HP Store Glorietta-Digital Exchange (632) 7527206 • HP Store Mall of Asia (PC Live) (632) 5560104 • HP Store Ortigas (Acionic) (632) 6307588 • HP Store Taft (TGM) (632) 5363245 • Asonic (HP Store - Computer Depot) (632) 635-7568/89 • Computer Hub (632) 631 9901 / 775 0140 • Electroworld Manila (632) 633 1624 / 813 0154 • PCWorx (HP Store - Gilmore) (632) 413 3838 / 413 4848 • Octagon Computer (632) Superstore 635 9080 / 026 0141 • Office Warehouse (632) 898 2658 / 438 1662 • PC Express – (632) 726-3400 • Silicon Valley (632) 371-6888 / 374 4008 • TCAV ature Link (632) 914-1270 /925 2618 • Accent Micro Products/PC Live (632) 634-2417/6342438
PROVINCIAL: Infoworx (HP Store - Clark) (045) 449 0044 • Electroworld Vismin – (032) 346 2780 / 346-2787 • HP Store SM City Cebu (032) 346 2962 • MServe IT HUB (032) 412-0068 • HP Store Iloilo (033) 337-8470 • HP Store Davao (082) 297-0241 / 297 6331 • Dataworx (047) 224 9237 • Digworx (045) 888 7981 • Global Solutions (HP Store - Cagayan De Oro) (088) 857 8414

What's the purpose and how often should market research studies (UAIs) be conducted?



Q: WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF AN ABRIDGED Usage, Attitude, Image (UAI) research study versus a comprehensive UAI and how frequently should this UAI be conducted really?

A: We should start by being clear about the purpose of an abridged UAI market research study. In fact, we should start by being clear about the difference between an abridged UAI as against a comprehensive UAI.

Abridged vs comprehensive UAI

An abridged UAI asks questions that are focused on measuring your brand's marketing health versus competition.

It also focuses on identifying its correct marketing problem. This focus makes it possible for the survey to be limited to about 20 questionnaire items or so. Its respondents are the product category users only and the sample size ranges from a low of 100 to a high of 300.

On the other hand, a comprehensive UAI gathers data from both product category users and non-users.

The data are all-encompassing and relate to the consumer's awareness, the category and brand usage habits and practices, purchase habits and practices for the category and brands, attitude toward the category and the brands, and category and brand images.

The non-users are asked about what they buy/use in place of the product category, their reasons for not using and for sticking to the category substitutes as well as their level of satisfaction.

A typical comprehensive UAI has a questionnaire that has more than a hundred items that takes more than an hour of interview to complete. The survey sample size is expectedly much larger, from a low 800 to a high of 1,500.

Expectedly, a comprehensive UAI will cost a multiple of the abridged UAI. This is why the senior MRx-er often tells clients that he can take the budget for a client's annual comprehensive UAI and do a 4 quarter abridged UAIs for the same budget.

How often?

What about the question of when? The quarterly timing is the typical or common practice.

That timing will give the research user an every 3 months' reading of his brand's marketing health and correct marketing problem. However, more and more research using managers want a monthly reading.

The motivation for a monthly reading comes from what's available now for a monthly reading of a product line or a brand's financial health.

More and more companies practice product or even brand accounting that provides a monthly Income Statement for the managers of each of the company's major product lines or brands.

It's natural then for these same managers to want to match this month reading of financial health with its counterpart of a monthly reading of marketing health.

Agencies to the rescue

Market survey research agencies have responded to this need. The two most popular monthly tracking survey services are the MarketMind of NFO-Trends and Myriad of TNS (Taylor, Nelson and Sofres) which has been acquired by NFO-Trends.

MarketMind and Myriad are each basically enhanced UAI studies reporting monthly but conducted on a weekly basis. The enhanced character comes from adding several non-UAI type of questions but the entire questionnaire remains largely UAI items. The other difference is in the timing which is monthly reporting and weekly data gathering.

The impetus for a monthly UAI whether as abridged UAI or as MarketMind or as Myriad comes not only from the idea of matching the monthly financial health reading but also from the emergent monthly or even weekly changes in marketing activities that are being experienced in certain product or service categories.

The more obvious cases are in the fast food sector involving Jollibee and McDonald's, and in the telecom category involving Smart and Globe. The felt need is to be able to monitor if and how the changing marketing initiatives are making a difference in sales, market shares, consumer preferences, and brand images and equity.

It's obvious that resorting to outside third party tracking studies like MarketMind or Myriad is very expensive. This is why clients of these trackers are almost exclusively the international or domestic multinational corporations. So what about the SME companies who are just as concerned about tracking their market performance? What can they do?

Good for SMEs as well

In his lectures on marketing research at the entrepreneurship program at the Asian Institute of Management where most of the students are SME businessmen, the senior MRx-er has detailed the abridged UAI as an inexpensive good working approximation of MarketMind or Myriad. This approximation is attained when conducted by the SME entrepreneur himself after an appropriate training, and implemented with his Pareto retail accounts, i.e., the 20 percent of his retail outlets accounting for some 80 percent of his sales.

This is not the forum for going into the details of this grassroots research technique but it's enough to mention that market research has not left the SMEs without help or without a reasonably affordable MarketMind/Myriad look-alike.

Keep your questions coming. Send them to us at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net. God bless!

LIFESTYLE
Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
e/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

PRINCESS Diana

TINA Brown

Right before the 10th death anniversary of the world's princess, the celebrated editor comes out with a riveting book

Princess Diana and Tina Brown: Victors of the era

LIFE-STYLED
Thelma Sioson San Juan

CONTRARY TO WHAT friends believe about my full bangs, they're not for channeling **Anna Wintour**. (It was not my idea to sport them, by the way, but that of close friends.)

Because of what she has done for Vogue, business- and journalism-wise, Wintour may be today's most successful magazine editor. But another former magazine editor amazes us: **Tina Brown**.

The former editor of Vanity Fair who, for better or for worse, made celebrity scoops the bedrock of sleek magazine journalism, is back with another hot stuff: "The Diana Chronicles," a 500-plus-page book on **Diana**, Princess of Wales, from her childhood to her death. This hardbound book, launched last month just before Diana's 10th death anniversary on Aug. 31, was the result of more than 200 interviews Brown did, with people in Diana's life (except **Prince Charles**, of course).

Having been away from the "scene" after her short-lived Talk magazine with Miramax, Brown is back on the radar, with this $2 million-deal book.

Brown, Diana and Wintour, to a big extent, encapsulate this era's women who are driven and independent, have careers and lives outside of their men and kids. Such women strive to have both style and substance, seek to shape and shake the world. In short, they are women who want to have it all.

But, once in a while, these women get their reality check. Come to think of it, it's how we listen to and learn from the reality check that spell the difference between merely successful women and the really wise women. Discernment is a gift a mature woman can cultivate.

In her interviews, Brown calls Diana her "generational echo," which is why she was interested to chronicle her relatively short but dramatic life. Like Wintour (in many write-ups, the rivalry between these two Conde Nast editors has been hinted at), Brown was an import from London who was tapped to edit Vanity Fair in New York in the '80s. Before that, it was while editor of the London Tatler that Brown first did stories on the young Diana, then a royal newlywed who was beginning to fascinate the world. They were not close friends, but Brown followed Diana's life, from a post-debutante bride to a world's princess, to a divorcee with messy love affairs, and on to her death. Their last face-to-face encounter was a media lunch in New York—with Wintour.

Using media

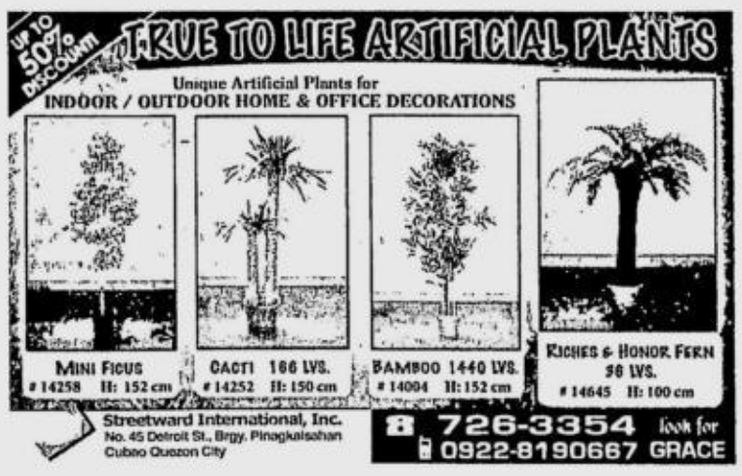
Diana was a product of this era obsessed with youth and celebrity. No, she wasn't only a product, she was its celebrity, and she certainly knew how to use the media to shape her image, if not achieve her personal ends.

While it was true that Diana was a victim of the paparazzi who hounded her to her death, Brown pointed out instances she lured or even tipped off the media when the publicity pegs suited her. It was she, for instance, who tipped them off about **Sarah Ferguson**'s dalliance with her businessman lover (the toe-sucking photo). According to Brown, to eclipse the birthday celebration Prince Charles was hosting for **Camilla**, Diana set up

PRINCESS/ C5

THE Diana CHRONICLES

TINA BROWN



SWATCH model Pia Guanio

SWATCH creative director Rowell Santiago

JOJI Dingcong (right) and his talents, Dawn Balagot and Epi Quizon

CARLO Orosa and Anton San Diego in a duet

BILLY Crawford with Susan Joven

Toasting Crawford and Cordero

SWATCH empress Virgie Ramos

CAGER Alvin Patrimonio singing "How Did You Know?"

PEPPER Teehankee putting on a Billy Crawford bandana

BRAZILIAN model Bruno

'HIGH School Musical' lead actor Sam Concepcion

TESSA Dragon, Tina Tinio and Xeng Zulueta

TINGTING Cojuangco

IT WAS AN INSTANT FAB Swatch party for international pop entertainer, the handsome and *muy simpatico* **Billy Crawford**! And wow, what great fun it was!

All the guests surprised the Swatch Empress, my *palangga* **Virgie Ramos**, by wearing their favorite Swatch watches. It was all like a fast review of Swatch history as seen from different watches and styles across the years, dahlings.

There was a free flow of the bubbly Möet & Chandon champagne to celebrate Billy's success in France. Remember, *palanggas*, it was in Cannes where our Billy Crawford beat the likes of **Will Smith**, **Robbie Williams** and **Eminem** for the super-coveted Best Male International Artist, at the NRJ Music Awards, no less.

The buzz at the happening was how wonderful it was to have Billy Crawford in *Manille*. Guests said Billy showed that great talents could stay normal. He has accomplished great things in the international entertainment world, and yet he walks around like a regular kid—so grounded, no airs! A really down-to-earth personality.

It was such a super great party that I had to drag myself out of it only way past midnight, but not before *moi* told Billy that I couldn't wait for his concert, titled "Billy Crawford, It's Time!"

Yes, *palanggas*, it's definitely Billy's time.

Leave it to Virgie R. to give a party like this, dahlings.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

Auggie Cordero returns

Metro Society Magazine presented the gala of one of the most respected designers in the fashion industry, the elusive, shy-ish and brilliant **Auggie Cordero**, no less dahlings.

The Samsung Metrowear Auggie Cordero Show provided fresh and elegant designs for the style aficionados of Cosmo Manille, *palanggas*.

The Grand Rigodon Ballroom of The Peninsula Manila was packed with business and society heavyweights such as ABS-CBN Publishing's **Ernie Lopez**, his wife, southern belle **Jeena Llamas-Lopez**, who were chosen as Samsung's Man and Woman of the Night.

Also present were woman for all seasons, **Thelma Sioson-San Juan**, GM of ABS-CBN Publishing, cucumber-cool **TingTing Cojuangco** and construction magnate **Philip Cruz**.

Stylish women and fashion connoisseurs were all present, such as **Marivic Madrigal Vasquez**, **Marivic Vasquez-Prada**, **Yaying Dragon**, **Margie Floirendo**, glamorous **Ching Cruz**, **Lorna Laurel**, **Menchu Katigbak**, fashion retail big boss **Ben Chan** and architect **Miguel Pastor**.

Also there were **Abby** and **Maricar Xerez-Burgos**; **Anton Roxas**, **Mia Borromeo**, **Karen Santos**, **Conchita Toda**, **Doody Tuason**, **Dawn Lagdameo**, **Hindy Webber-Tantoco** and **Techie Hagedorn**.

Our town's top fashion-watchers and critics were not disappointed with what they saw. "I loved his bridal portion of the show," was a frequent comment. A fashion observer told me: "His cocktail outfits were gorgeous, but I wish there were other designs instead of all those feathers in most of the clothes." But another stylish woman insisted. "It was like turning back the hands of time! Auggie is still the best!"

Auggie Cordero's 50-piece collection included a special diamond collection, modeled by the still awesome-looking veteran super models such as **Apples Aberin-Sadwhani**, **Issa Gonzalez**, **Lala Flores**, **Suyen Chi**, **Tweetie de Leon-Gonzalez**, **Marina Benipayo**, **Ana Lloren**, **Romina Urra-Gonzalez** and **Badette Vinalon**. Hey, these fab gals can still give younger models a run for their ramp, *palanggas*.

Directing the Samsung Metrowear Auggie Cordero Show was **Ariel Lozada**. This event was brought to savvy fashion spectators by the Peninsula Manila, 2007 Nissan Patrol Super Safari, and Rustan's Essenses.

One Bigfish summer!

Palanggas, when it comes to dance events, Bigfish is the biggest fish there is. And once again, without batting an eyelash whether it rained or not, there they were in Boracay, holding one of their unforgettable dance parties.

It is unbelievable, *palanggas*, that Bigfish has already been behind the biggest dance events in Boracay for the past seven years, and now, Bigfish's **Pixie Cheah** and **Ricky Daker**, of Activ8 Records, have done it again for Boracay's party faithful.

The pair presented Gatecrasher at the popular Hey Jude! Resort Beachfront, with pumping tunes by international DJ **Dave Lee** and the legendary DJ **Lange**, who let loose their energetic trance music to energize over 2,000 awesome party people, dahlings.

DJ **Erwin Edralin** was followed by DJ **Mike Van Loon** in showcasing Fierce Angel's brand of house music. Beach angel **Bonnie Bailey** performed before her ecstatic fans. Accompanied by fire-dancers, she sang her hit songs to the delight of clubbers.

The gigs were supported by Smart Gold in cooperation with Activ8 Records; Seair, the official carrier; Official Boracay residence of Team Bigfish: Fairways & Bluewater, The Villas on the 9th Lodgings; and Mulligan Golf Hotel.

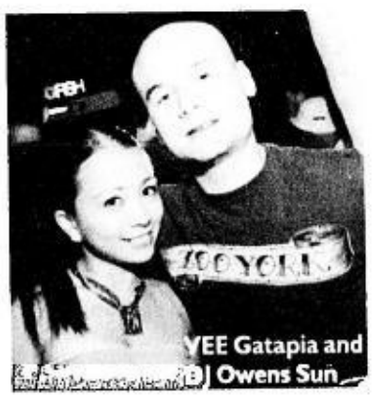
Yes, *palanggas*, with Bigfish around, you're sure to party hard. I know *moi* did.

MOI, Virgie Ramos, Tessa and Dennis Valdes

BIGFISH promoter Pixie Cheah with DJ Dave Lee, Joe Peralta of Fairways and Blue Waters and Ricky Daker of Activ8 Records

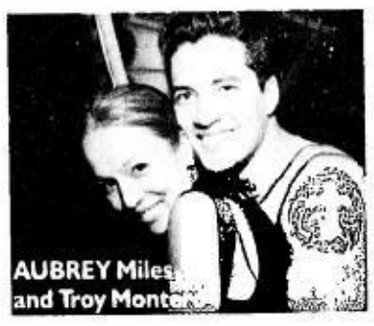
JM Rodriguez, Manolet Dario, Thea Froejaker and Stephen Ku

PUBLICIST GP Reyes


VEE Gatapia and DJ Owens Sun

DJ Mike Van Loon and Bonnie Bailey

ERWIN Edralin and Paula Rosales


AUBREY Miles and Troy Montero

CHITO Antonio

TOP DESIGNER Auggie Cordero with Sophia Villanueva, Cita Barretto Villanueva and Monica Villanueva

RIA Prieto

ABS-CBN Publishing GM Thelma San Juan, Jeena Llamas-Lopez and Ernie Lopez

ABS-CBN Broadcasting's Charo Santos-Concio, Cordero muse Mayen Carmona and ABS-CBN Publishing senior VP Monchet Olives

BETTINA L. Osmeña, Chona Mejia Lopez and Mary Beth de Leon

JOJO Zabarte

RICKY and Lorna Laurel

LULU Tan Gan, Dennis Lustico and Criselda Lontok

METRO Society's Ipe Cruz and Raul Manzano, Ching Cruz and Mike Toledo

RAFA and Amina Alunan

BEA Soriano and Carlo Adorador

RICA PERALEJO
Because of Bench, my pride for Filipino ingenuity and export-quality apparel was reawakened. It has made me look at Pinoys again with so much hope and passion in my heart.

KIM CHIU
Seeing myself in billboards is a great thrill; the gift checks I get are just an added bonus. I'm so happy to be part of the Bench family.

Beautiful people

GERALD ANDERSON
It's my first time to endorse a clothing line. I'm still excited and I can't believe that I'm actually looking at my pictures in billboards.

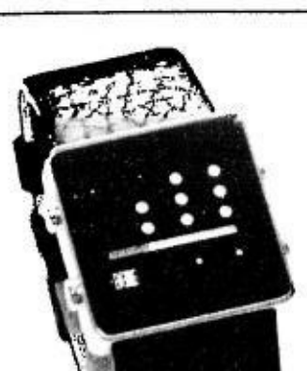
ENCHONG DEE
Bench woke up the side of me that wants to dress up, not to show off but to be presentable. I am comfortable with Bench clothes and thus look great in them!

ONLY A chosen few beautiful, talented and famous people are in the exclusive roster of Bench endorsers.

Two lucky individuals will have the chance to shine as bright as these stars when "Bench Model Search" hits the television screen starting July 29 at 10:30 p.m. on ABS-CBN.

ZANJOE MARUDO
Bench has opened doors and brought a lot of opportunities for me. I like dressing up and Bench always has the right stuff for me.

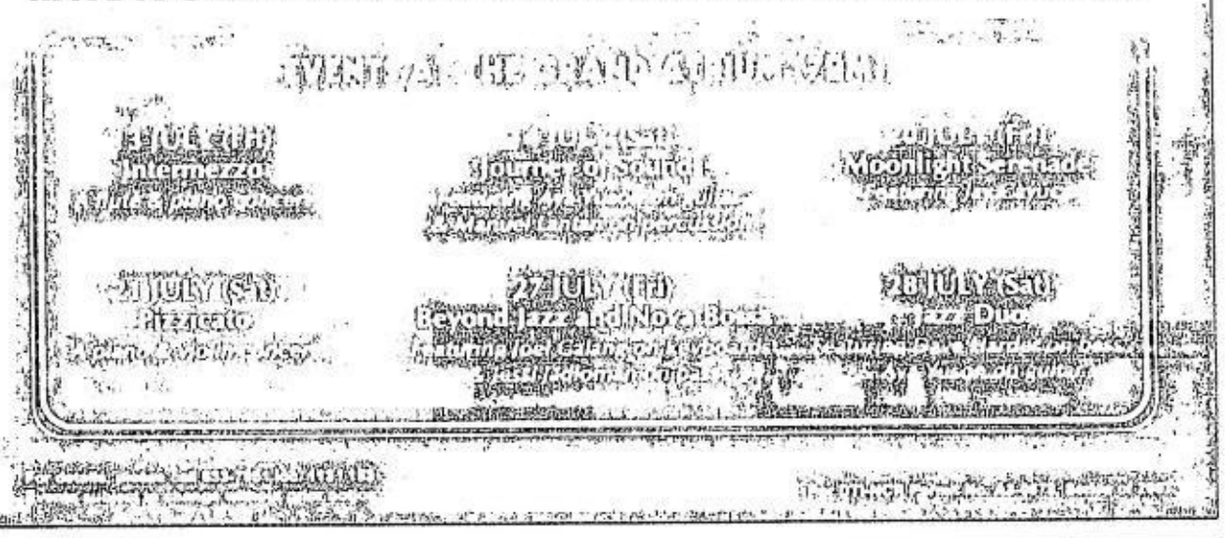
MIKEE LEE
Being a Bench endorser has given me the chance to meet people filled with enthusiasm for their work and learn from them. It has inspired me to be at my best and to stay as an inspiration to many because that's pretty much what Bench does, too.

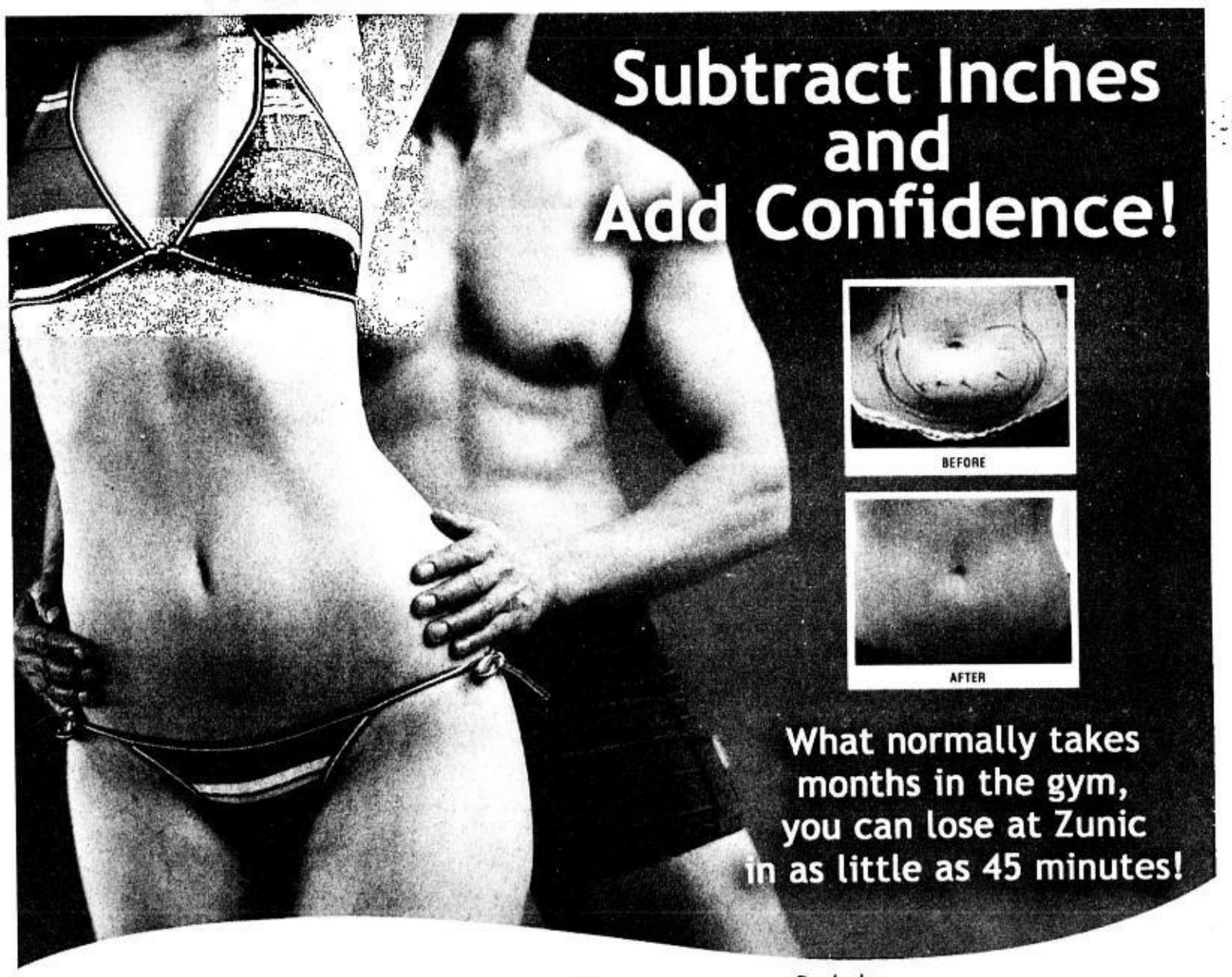


SHINY AND 'NOO'
Futuristic and innovative, this very "noo" line of watches called Nooka presents time in an artistic, unconventional and linear manner. Nooka watches are available at My Diamond, Gateway Mall; My Diamond, Glorietta 4; My Diamond/My Tempo, Robinsons Place Manila; My Tempo, SM North Edsa; Rafael Jewellery, Edsa Shangri-La Plaza Mall; and Rafael Jewellery, Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

Shangri-La Plaza®

Season-Ender
SALE
UP TO
75%* OFF
*On selected items.
13-31 JULY 2007
HAVE A GREAT TIME SHOPPING AND ENJOY TERRIFIC DISCOUNTS!





Zunic's Slimming and Body Sculpting Method™ melts away unsightly body fat without surgery, diet, pills or exercise. The dissolved fat is naturally flushed out by the body, which means zero recovery time.

Find out what makes Zunic the real deal. Experience results you can see and feel in as little as 45 minutes!

Body by
Zunic
slimming & body sculpting

Pair Up and Double Your Perks! Get a FREE pair of CelluAvant™ treatments each when you enroll with a friend on or before July 15, 2007!
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3134 Series of 2007

Call 374-0600 or 752-0600 for a FREE personal consultation. Open Mon-Sun, 8am-8pm.

MAKATI: 752-0600 • 752-0601
Upper G/F Somerset Olympia
7912 Makati Ave., Makati City

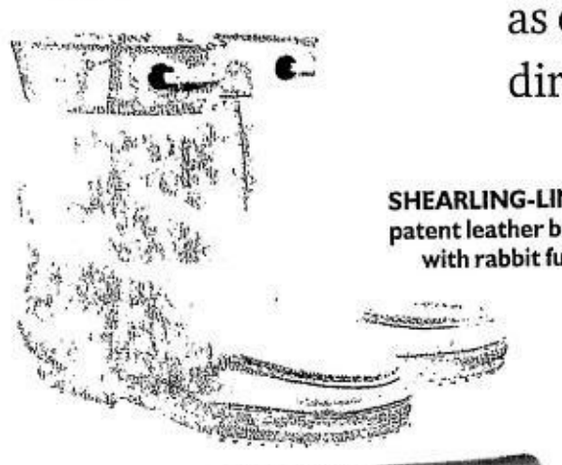
QUEZON CITY: 374-0600 • 374-0800
G/F New Grange Building
32 Timog Ave., Quezon City

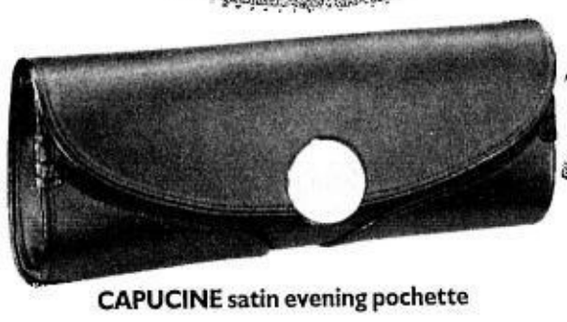
LEANER T Bag in exotic crocodile, pony and nylon

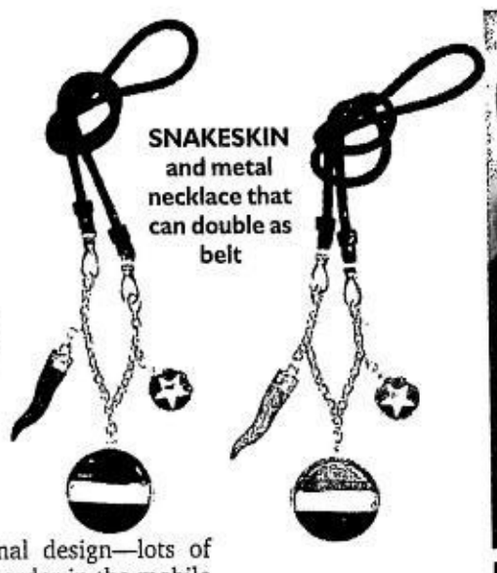
Derek Lam injects the essential element of youth and freshness to Tod's in his first full collection as creative director

LOGO-EMBOSSED Bangor, the label's It bag for fall ROGER CARPIO

A SNEAK peek at the Tod's fall campaign starring Sienna Miller, shown with the weekender Pashmy satchel


SHEARLING-LINED patent leather boots with rabbit fur


CAPUCINE satin evening pochette


SNAKESKIN and metal necklace that can double as belt

DEREK Lam

Bag to the future

By Cheche V. Moral

THEY CAN THROW YOU OFF, THOSE bellowing four letters. That's their effect on anyone used to Tod's quiet elegance.

But if you can look past the emergence of a big bold logo across the front of a Tod's bag, which is the case with Bangor, the Italian luxury leathergoods maker's star product for fall under its new and young creative director, you will find the same familiar and covetable pieces born of Tod's' custom of revisiting functional classics.

Derek Lam injects the essential element of youth and freshness in his first full collection as Tod's creative director. (Lam had collaborated with the label for a couple of seasons before he was tapped as design head last December.) The bowler bag Bangor, which is embossed or stitched with the brand's name in bold three-inch letters, sets the tone for the rest of the American designer's collection. The logo would appear in a couple of the other bags, though in decidedly subtler ways—as dice charms dangling from zippers or stamped on the hardware.

But the most telling of the young design chief's imprint on the new look of Tod's is rooted in his bent as a clothes designer: how a purse's shape can elongate a woman's frame, for example. A vertically quilted retro '70s shoulder bag for fall is said to be his personal favorite, as it has a lean shape that would look nice on a woman's arm (or, rather, that would make a woman look nice with *it* on her arm). It features vintage-sporty multi-toned bands of leather as flap—a detail that has appeared on the brand's iconic loafers—and, according to Flora Lee of Tod's Hong Kong at the press presentation in Greenbelt 4 recently, may just soon become the brand's version of a logo.

The retro-sporty vibe is eminent in the new purses. There's a vertically built doctor-inspired shopper, stunning for its size alone. Apart from looks, the marked difference of a Tod's bag is its functional design—lots of room and pockets to put order in the mobile woman's active lifestyle. Lee bragged that the popular multi-pocket T Bag earned the best-designed bag nod for 2006 from Wallpaper magazine. Under Lam, it reemerges in a flatter, taller shape, as he does away with the side pockets. Even the equally boxy Miky purse undergoes a makeover and comes out slimmer.

Last season's "It" bag from the brand, the Pashmy, which came in metallic nylon fabrics, now comes in a hobo shape and a weekend-travel size, in matte nylon with patent leather trims and gold hardware. "It's very pretty, and nylon is so light, you needn't worry about carrying a nice but heavy bag in the airport," Lee said.

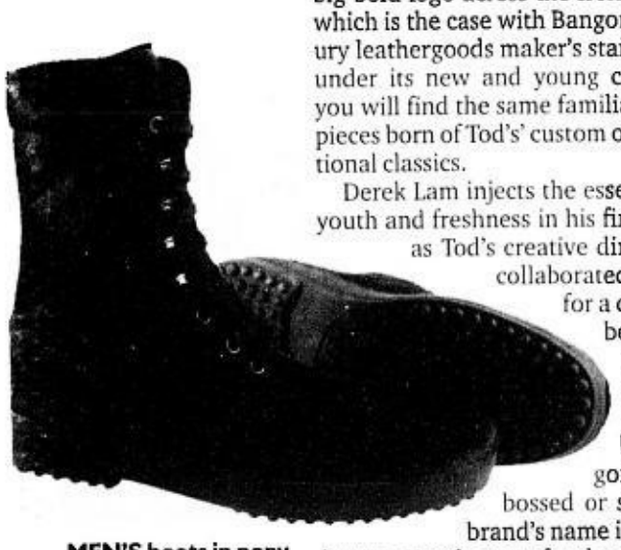
The Pashmy gained It status after it was photographed on the likes of Cameron Diaz and Drew Barrymore. (To bolster the brand's youth cachet, Tod's had signed up British actress and It girl Sienna Miller to be its face for fall.)

The classic Degas ballerina flats come in suede with feathers or in calfskin with satin ribbons and crystals. There are patent leather platform Maryjanes with stacked heels and rubber soles. But for women who wouldn't compromise comfort even on a night out, the Gommino appears in satin and metallic leather combo. An evening clutch in similar materials also debuts this month.

For men, Lam injects playful details on classic moccasins, like fringes on the Gommino, or a similar fringe on a wingtip that mimics a golfer shoe. He also wraps the horse bits on a couple of loafer styles with thin strips of leather. A new material for men's footwear, called perforated leather, also makes an appearance in the fall collection. Some of the soles are thicker than ordinary, so designed for the colder months, Lee said. (A women's loafer style is designed with the same intent.)

One of the more interesting pieces in the men's collection is a large tote that, while fine-looking and very practical, may take a really, um, secure Filipino man to pick off the shelf. "In [fashionable Asian cities like] Tokyo, Hong Kong and Seoul, this style is very popular with men," Lee said.

That, or there's always that trusty messenger bag.

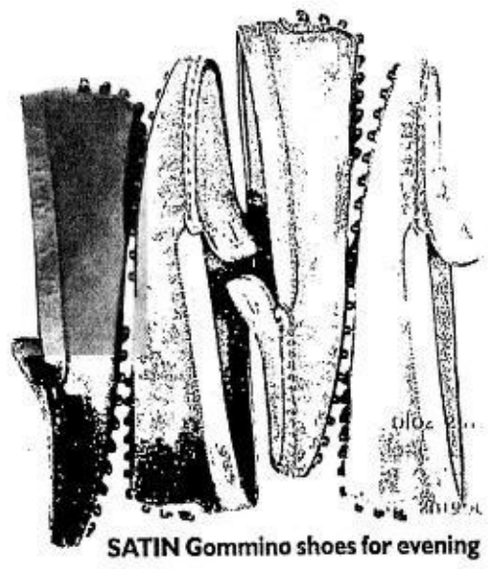

MEN'S boots in pony with extra-thick soles for winter weather

MODEL wears a jacket from Lam's fall collection for Tod's, and his favorite purse from the collection. ROGER CARPIO

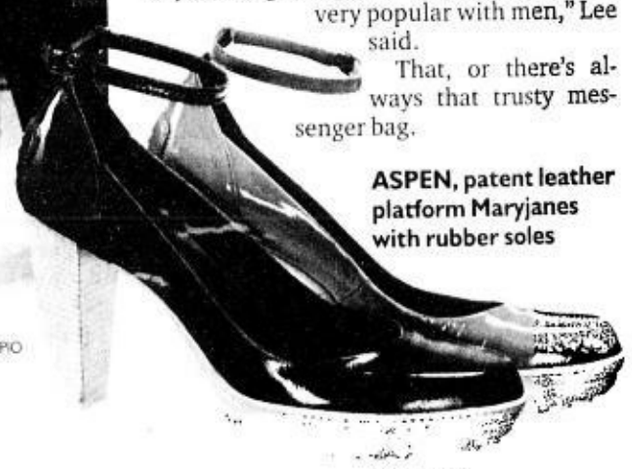
MEN'S loafers with fringes (above) and men's tote

LACE-UP boots with shearling

COAT with military-style closures and a large quilted shopper ROGER CARPIO


SATIN Gommino shoes for evening

MEN'S sneakers in patent leather


ASPEN, patent leather platform Maryjanes with rubber soles

NEW Miky bags in metallic leather

MEN'S suede loafers with leather-wrapped horsebit detail

SUEDE ballerina flats with feathers

PASHMY hobo

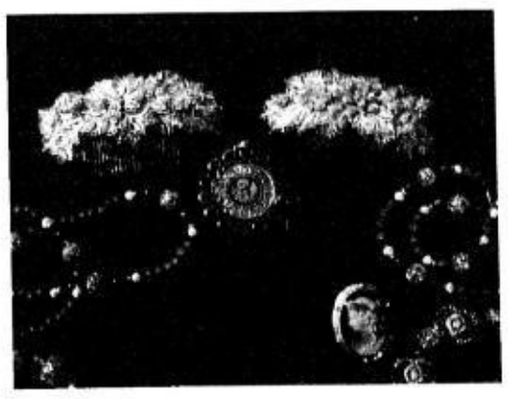
Three-day sale

PRIZES, DISCOUNTS AND GREAT BUYS ARE offered by Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall during a three-day sale, July 13-15. Over 300 boutiques and specialty stores, as well as the Sta. Lucia East Department Store, Supermarkets, Home Gallery and Planet Toys, are participating. Every P300 single purchase receipt lets the shopper join the raffle for a chance to win an American Home Washing Machine. Other activities are: July 14, Step Avenue Hip Hop Dance Competition; and July 15, Scrap Baby Scrap Scrapbooking Contest. Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall is on Marcos Highway cor. Felix Avenue, Cainta, Rizal.

ACROBATICS IN THE MALL. The world-renowned Cirque-Works acrobatic troupe is coming to the Ayala Malls from July to August. The group is bringing its skills and machines for "Mechanical Action," a theatrical acrobatic circus show of veterans of Cirque du Soleil and former Soviet Union gymnasts, acrobats and aerialists. A first of its kind in mall entertainment, the show will be presented 11:30 a.m., 3 p.m., and 6 p.m., on July 27-29 at the Glorietta Activity Center; 11:30 a.m., 3 p.m., and 6 p.m., August 3-5, Tri-Noma Activity Center; 1 p.m., 3:30 p.m., and 6 p.m., Aug. 10-12, Market! Market! Activity Center; 11 a.m., 3 p.m., and 6 p.m., Aug. 17-19, Alabang Town Center Activity Center; and 1 p.m., 4 p.m., and 6:30 p.m., Aug. 24-26, Ayala Center Cebu Activity Center.

FREE HANDSET. Sun Cellular is offering the Sony Ericsson K310i handset for free at Plan 350. The unit is also available for Sun Group Plans 999 and Fixed Load Plan 350. The Sony Ericsson K310i handset has impressive features like a VGA camera, infrared and MP3 Player. The user can record videos, send and receive MMS (multi-media service) messages, and check e-mail. It is GPRS and WAP capable, and has a USB port to allow download and upload of computer files (www.suncellular.com.ph; tel. 395-8000).

GOINGS ON



SPECIAL JEWELRY COLLECTION
Chain of Custody, the specialty shop for Arts & Antiquities, unveils a special collection of jewelry on July 14. The wide range of designs includes traditional Filipino jewelry to avant-garde Italian pieces. Included in the selection are semi-precious stones set in silver, and 12k, 14k and 18k gold, all at affordable prices. Chain of Custody is at 2/F Serendra, Bonifacio Global City, facing Market! Market! Call 9013803.

Princess ...

From page C1

her Corsica holiday with **Dodi** (the vacation right before their death) and saw to it that the paparazzi lenses would catch her kissing her lover on the boat, in that now famous shot.

So Diana was no babe in the woods where image making was concerned; she was a manipulator of media as much as she was manipulated.

Brown's book has been getting the buzz, and for good reason. Unlike **Andrew Morton**'s bio of Diana, which was clearly Diana's voice and her way of telling the public what she wanted it to know, Brown's is a journalist's book. Brown maintains a respectable detachment, even as she feeds the reader's hunger for details in almost every aspect of Diana's life. And details she had! She wrote that Diana, technically, was not a virgin on her wedding; she and Prince Charles must have slept together before the wedding night, in the royal railroad car.

We haven't finished reading the book yet. (It's sold out at A Different Bookstore. We were lucky to have grabbed one of the first copies) But we're jumping chapters. Brown begins and ends with Diana's death. The chapter on the car crash was riveting. It describes in very graphic detail what really happened. It debunked the notion that the French hospital system wasn't prepared for such an emergency as the American or British systems were. On the contrary, Brown elaborated at good length how the French medical rescue system was advanced and equipped for such accidents as Diana's car crash. It was equipped to give on-the-spot resuscitation and emergency treatments, without having to move the injured victim right away so as not to worsen the trauma.

At the crash, Brown recounted that Diana's heartbeat was fainting so fast the doctors had to keep reviving her. That was also the reason the ambulance taking her to the hospital had to move at almost gentle speed so as not to jar her heart. In the end, the doctors on the operating table knew that Diana literally died of a broken heart. The impact of the crash was such that her heart was thrust from the left to the right side of the chest, tearing a vein in the process and thus causing the bleeding. The doctors tried in vain to repair that broken heart. How symbolic!

Summer fling

It's also interesting how Brown makes a stand. For instance, she maintains that Diana had no intention of marrying Dodi, that he was just her summer fling. It is in instances such as this where the journalist attempts to get into her subject's mind, as if owning and directing it like a fiction writer would.

Not just an editor, Brown is a journalist. She is a writer who likes to go for the kill, so to speak. It's been written that she has no interest in décor, shopping or style. She is not a glamazon or a style arbiter like Wintour. She goes for the scoop, not for style.

But she does have to look stylish. I read that to prepare for her book launch, she went to a spa for Thai massages and upper-thigh-reducing exercises. She also lost weight for the launch.

She may not be opening a magazine any time soon, but obviously she's on top of the pop and celebrity culture she helped create. Today's women, like Diana and Brown, are used to only one thing—being in control, even as they seem to be victims of betrayal.

Classy sparklers

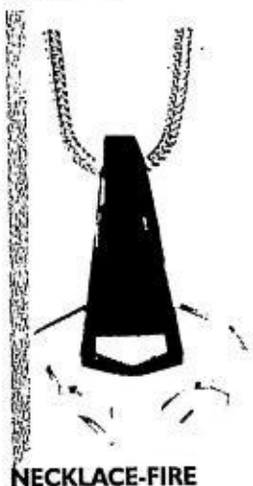
INCORPORATE ELEGANCE AND style into your everyday life with Morellato jewelry's different lines.

Oriente offers classy cultured pearls on stainless steel. Aurora has sleek elements like the cat-eye stone, gold, diamonds and curvy stainless steel incorporated with cotton. Fun pendants in stainless steel with diamonds distinguish Sogni and Onde.

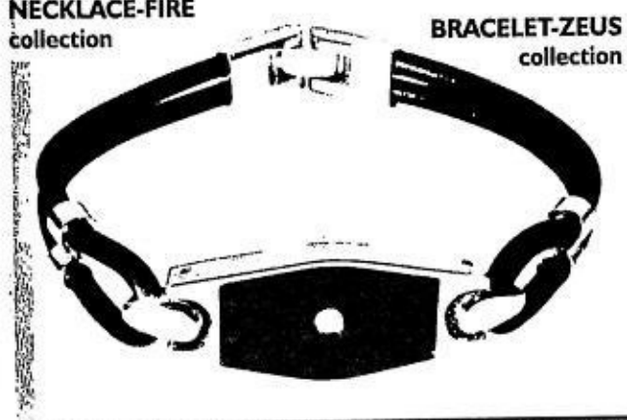
Morellato also has accessories for men—the Master, Fire, Doppiogioco, Zeus and Uomo collections—that are designed to bring together gold and diamonds and natural elements like carbon, cotton, leather and silicone.

These collections are complemented by premium watches, keychains and wallets.

Morellato kiosks are located at 4/L Podium Mall, tel. 6380030; My Diamond, 2/F, Glorietta 4, 7571086; My Diamond, G/F, Edsa Shangri-La Plaza Mall, 6389376; My Diamond, UG, 9124013; My Diamond, 2/L, Entertainment Building, SM Mall of Asia, 5560649; Rafael Jewellery, 2/L, Edsa Shangri-La Plaza Mall, 6363398; Rafael Jewellery, Mezzanine Level, Makati Shangri-La Hotel, 8138501; My Tempo, U/G, SM North Edsa, 9277620; My Diamond/My Tempo, 2/L, Padre Faura Wing, Robinsons Place Manila, 5675209.

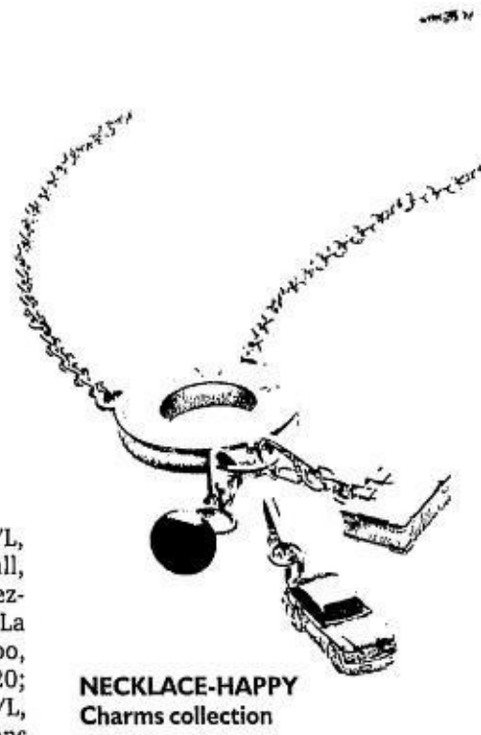


NECKLACE-FIRE collection



BRACELET-ZEUS collection

NECKLACE-AURORA collection



NECKLACE-HAPPY Charms collection

Captivating, timeless, a musical delight...

WANDERS

WANDERS is a one-of-a-kind musical extravaganza that top bills our best homegrown talents in the entertainment scene. It showcases world-class Filipino performers who are out to captivate audiences with soulful renditions of timeless classics and vibrant dance numbers. A fusion of cultures, the show also highlights gravity-defying aerial acrobatics and stunning displays of skills by flamboyant performers from China and Russia.

Every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday
at PAGCOR Grand Theater
Airport Casino
Parañaque City, Metro Manila

Ticket prices: ₱3000 • ₱2500 • ₱2000 • ₱1500 • ₱1200

Presented by

Casino Filipino

Tickets are available at:

Produced by
CIRQUE ASIA INTERNATIONAL

For inquiries contact telphone numbers (632)852-7758 : 54

Keeping time the maritime way

TECHNOMARINE HAS BEEN GRANTED permission by the United States Department of the Navy to use the "US Navy" name for its latest timepiece.

The US Navy sports a 45-mm case and boldly designed Superluminova numerals to enable the time to be read even in the most extreme conditions. The water-resistant black leather strap coated in rubber makes a significant contribution to the resistance and robustness of this chronograph.

A distinctive feature is the positioning of the crown and chronograph buttons on the left-hand side of the US Navy, so that wearing comfort is not restricted despite the size of the case.

The US Navy may be worn by athletic men and trendy women alike and are available in two different colors: black and white.

The US Navy chronograph is available at TechnoMarine Flagship, G/F, Greenbelt 3 (tel. 7573975); TechnoMarine Boutique, 3/F, Building A, SM Megamall (6317491); Rafael Jewellery, 2/L, Shangri-La Plaza Mall (6363398); Rafael Jewellery, Mezzanine Level, Makati Shangri-La Hotel (813501); My Diamond, 2/F Glorietta 4 (7571086); and My Diamond, Upper Ground Level, Gateway Mall, Araneta Center (9124013).

TECHNOMARINE'S US Navy watch

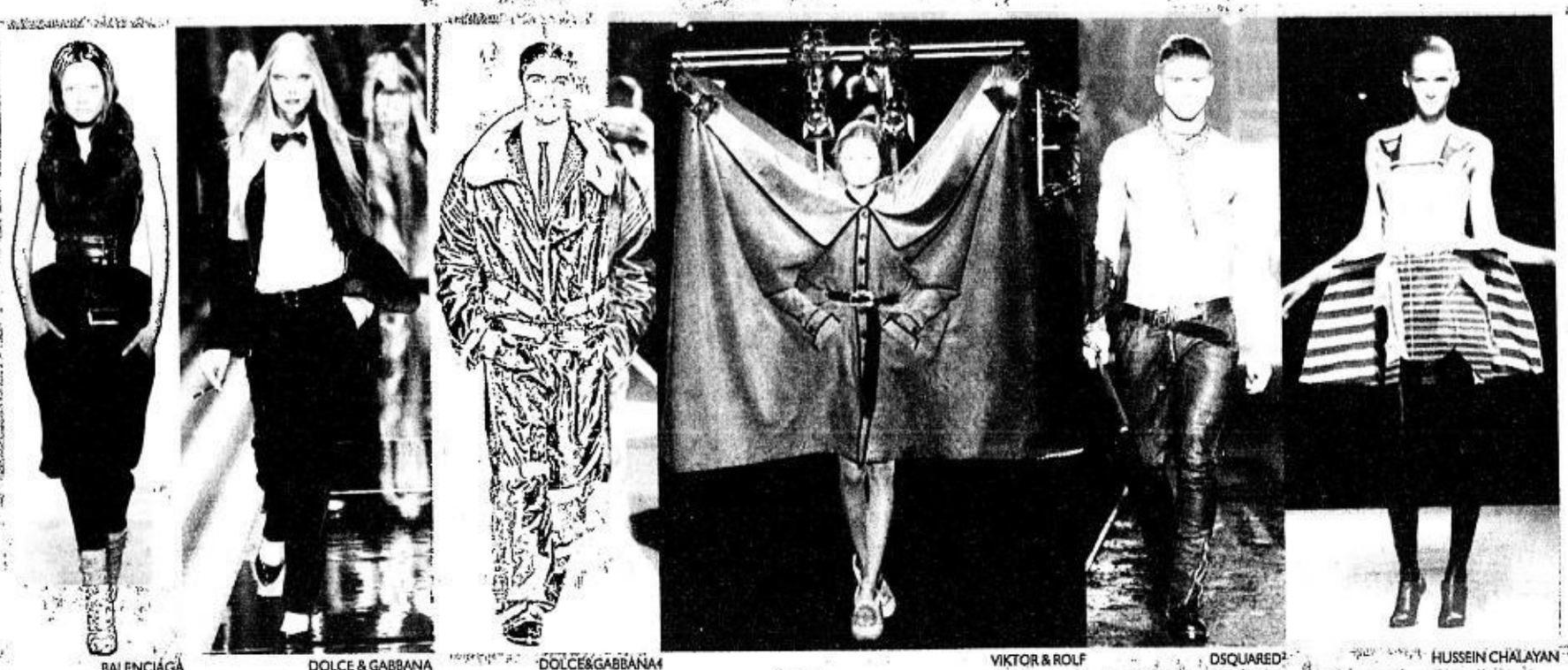
THE KRA, a TechnoMarine timepiece inspired by the motoring industry

LIFESTYLE

Contributing Editors
Jenni Epperson
and Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

FASHION



BALENCIAGA DOLCE & GABBANA DOLCE&GABBANA VIKTOR & ROLF DSQUARED² HUSSEIN CHALAYAN JIL SANDER

What's hot! Fall-Winter

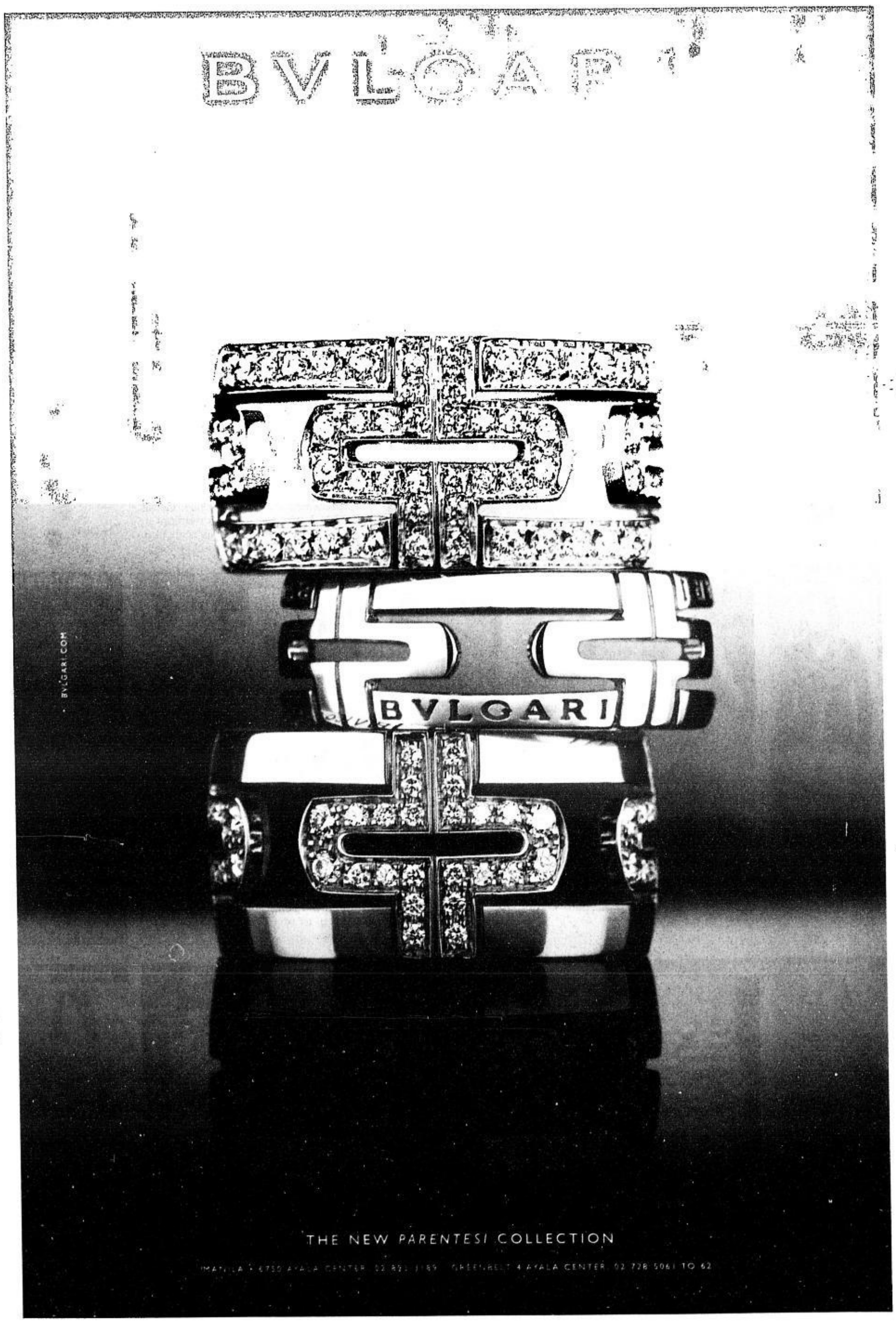
THE NEW 2007 PARENTESI COLLECTION

The new Parentesi collection is the interpretation of a unique sign which is unmistakably Bulgari. Revisiting a classic design that has given life to modular jewelry, the new look leaves behind the straight lines of its previous interpretations while preserving the definitive character of a truly historical motif.

Absolute attention to detail reveals jewels with a coherent, explicit, sophisticated expression. The openwork structure is the defining characteristic of the new collection, giving each piece a bold yet modern interpretation of the Parentesi sign. The subtle yet visible use of the logo as an element of design highlights the pure profiles. White or yellow gold are used for earrings, rings, bracelets, pendants and necklaces, outlined with demi-pavé and pavé diamonds.

The new 2007 Parentesi collection truly sets a new standard in elegant, modern style.

The new 2007 Parentesi collection is now available in Manila. BVLGARI Boutiques: 6750 Shopping Arcade, 8933189 and Greenbelt 4, Ayala Center, 7285061.



Power play

Mabuhay!

Jenni Epperson

E-mail the author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph

THE FUTURE IS SO LAST SEASON.

Those space age-inspired metallics have teleported back to another parallel fashion universe, but with a few fragments left behind.

For this Fall-Winter 2007, expect visitations from the '60s, '70s, '80s and '90s, reinterpreted with modern-day sensibilities.

Look out for more toned down, wearable looks inspired by the power women of the '90s, but with a softened fierceness. The ideal is an empowered femininity—a chic, self-assured and softer style. I'd call it a "you-have-arrived" look. Anything over-the-top means you haven't reached there yet.

In other words, the *borloloy* queen has been dethroned!

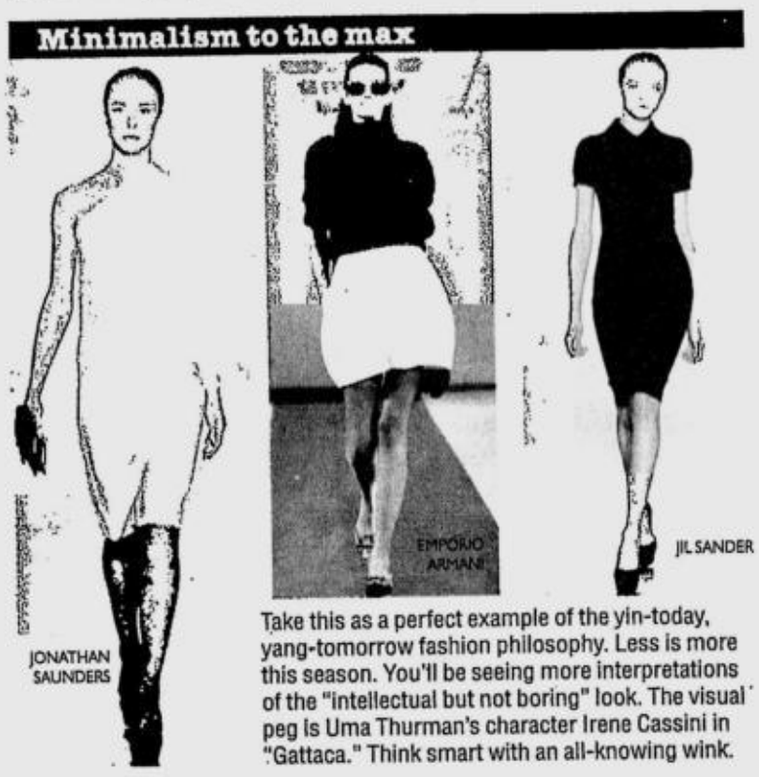
Also, expect a bold, bright punch-drunk cocktail of colors this time around.

What else is in store in the immediate fashion horizon? Refer to this style spreadsheet and get clued in on 2007's other trends.

Let's play, ladies!

Meeting adjourned.

Minimalism to the max



Take this as a perfect example of the yin-today, yang-tomorrow fashion philosophy. Less is more this season. You'll be seeing more interpretations of the "intellectual but not boring" look. The visual peg is Uma Thurman's character Irene Cassini in "Gattaca." Think smart with an all-knowing wink.

The boyfriend look

Let's hear it for the boys! Time to raid your boyfriend's closet once again as this season brings out more menswear-inspired outfits like suits and vests, but worn the womanly way.

Bright and bold

Block colors in punchy hues add a jolt of style to this season's somber shades.

The new LBD

My favorite wardrobe staple, the Little Black Dress, remains as timeless as ever. Its reincarnation this season will come in looks created with textured fabrics, asymmetric shapes and edgy cuts.

The sweet escape

Romantic ruffles and feminine frills take a back seat, as this season's dreamy dresses are more quirky than cute.

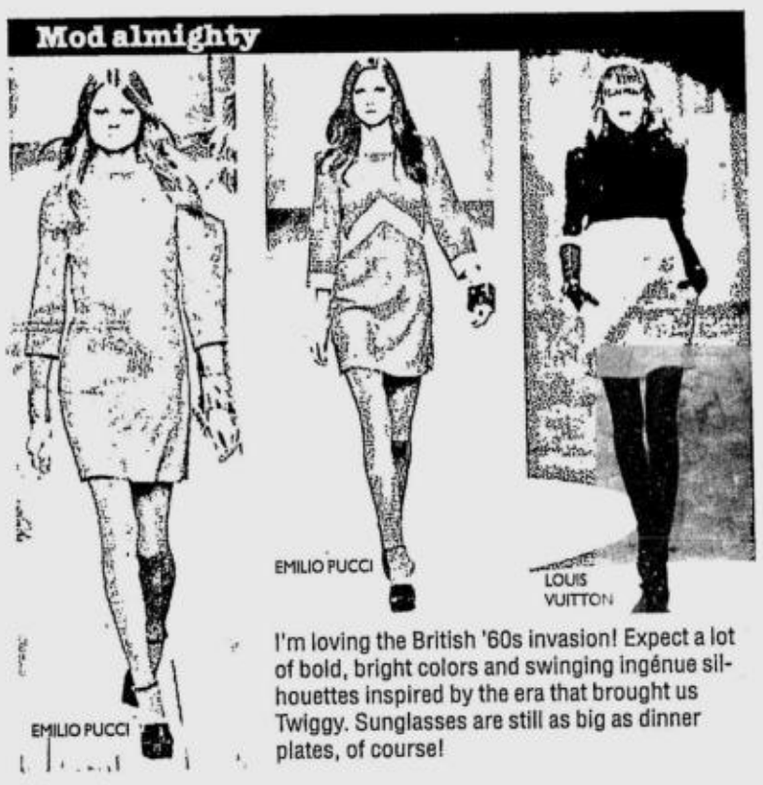
Stocking up

As an offshoot of the revived Mod movement, expect opaque stockings, which have replaced leggings, to make a bold statement this season. My advice is to pair black or brightly colored ones with minis, maxis and even cocktail dresses.

Giving the shoulder

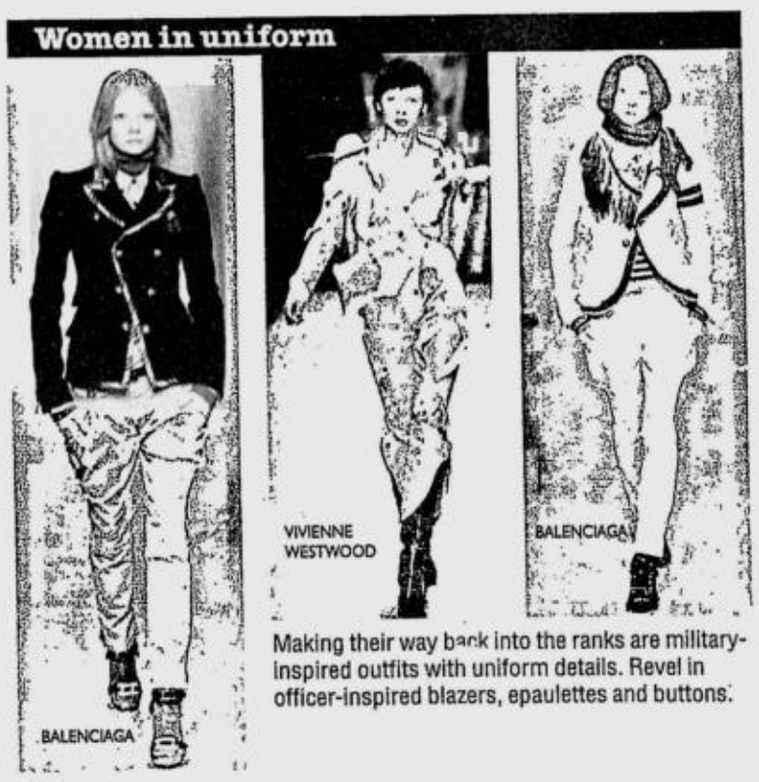
Could it be? First high-waisted jeans, now shoulder pads to the max that would put Optimus Prime to shame! This just proves that humankind's eternal karma is the '80s. But before you start unearthing that Journey album, there is some hope. Today's shoulder pads are meant to give structure and a more "Star Trek" uniform appeal, rather than the vintage quarterback look.

Mod almighty



I'm loving the British '60s invasion! Expect a lot of bold, bright colors and swinging ingénue silhouettes inspired by the era that brought us Twiggy. Sunglasses are still as big as dinner plates, of course!

Women in uniform



Making their way back into the ranks are military-inspired outfits with uniform details. Revel in officer-inspired blazers, epaulettes and buttons.

Art's cool

Proving that great art will never go out of style, dresses have become this season's blank canvas. Get ready to see graphic, bold and colorful prints and paintings on exhibit.

Metallure

The vestiges of the metallic trend can still be glimpsed this season in shiny accessories and accents that scream hi-glam allure.

The stripe is right

Hey, sailor! You're still in style! Nautical lines cross over to urban streets for a carefree, free-to-heed-the-call-of-the-high-seas look.

Time for the hourglass

Curves are making headlines, with wide belts cinching waists to bring out the classic hourglass shape.

Ethnic chic

Tribal prints make a bold statement this Fall—the wild card of the season.

From drab to debonair

Earth tones, scarf prints and metallics are welcome additions to men's wardrobes this year

By Alex Y. Vergara

HERE'S GOOD NEWS FOR male fashionistas all over the tropics. For the first time in years, they don't have to stew in traditional black and gray outfits as they suit up for the imaginary fall-winter season.

Earth tones such as khaki and olive should be welcome additions to their wardrobes, says fashion designer Joey Samson. In fact, he even recommends an all-earth ensemble such as a fatigue jacket, charcoal vest and khaki pants.

If they're partial to the "terno" look, they can resort to tone-on-tone dressing with an oyster gray shirt, charcoal jacket and medium gray pants. And the best part is, they need not throw away certain key pieces from previous seasons.

"Men can update their wardrobes with such pieces as vests, pullovers, cardigans and hooded tops," he adds.

Samson dares the brave guys to play with scarf prints—think silk—either as an accessory or as a detail to their shirts or jackets. The traditionalist can add a dash or two of color to his dark pieces by way of a slim tie, narrow belt and even a basic tee.

"Accent colors range from neon or fluorescent to royal blue," he says. "Lemon yellow will also be hot this season."

Ideal alternatives

Fellow designer Randy Ortiz thinks white—a bit metallic and textured—gold and silver are ideal alternatives to an all-black suit. Metallic shades, however, should be used sparingly or confined to key pieces such as belts and tees. Leave the metallic glove to Michael Jackson.

"They can spice up their look with certain colors," says Ortiz. "I'm partial to cobalt blue, Bordeaux red, mustard yellow and purple."

No matter what the season is, denim pants will always be a mainstay in Anthony Nocom's design book. But the menswear designer for SM isn't limiting his clients to blue jeans.

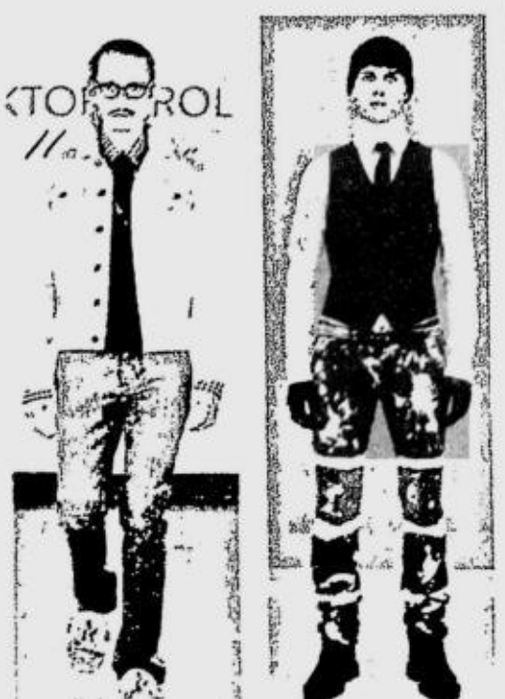
They can wear white jeans and all sorts of colors from neutrals to brights, he says. He also recommends knitted vests in solid colors and shirts in iridescent fabrics for evening wear.

"Any fabric with a fair amount of stretch is a good material as the rage for the slim, cropped silhouette has yet to die down," Nocom adds.

It's okay to experiment a bit as long as you don't go overboard. Whatever trend you choose to incorporate into your fashion statement, it always pays to keep it simple and uncluttered.

"In putting together a look, keep in mind what color or shape suits your personality and body frame," says Samson. "There's nothing wrong with experimenting with one's

FROM DRAB/ D4



Geometrics

MARNI

MISSONI

PUCCI

The play of figures and shapes is apparent in this season's choice accessories, be it a conical or triangular heel, Art Deco-inspired ring, funky neckpiece or boxy patchwork bag.

Sheen is in

ZAC POSEN

ALESSANDRO DELL'ACQUA

MARNI

The understated shine of satin is one way to liven up any basic wardrobe. Go all out with a big, bright bag that's sure to catch the eye. Or don a pair of leather and satin heels that are subtler but just as smart.

Arm Candy

VALENTINO

CHANEL

LOUIS VUITTON

Adorn your arms with chic cuffs and oversized bangles. Take your pick from elegant diamond-studded varieties to medieval gold versions to modern, cutting-edge styles.

Waist-ed!

BALENCIAGA

CHRISTIAN LACROIX

DOLCE & GABBANA

Emphasize those curves with the use of a wide (the wider the better!) belt. But as always, pick a cincher that suits your style and body type.

BURBERRY PRORSUM

Trend hunter

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

WITH EACH NEW FASHION season comes a multitude of "best buys" and "must-haves." Part of the excitement is trying to determine what are the key pieces and potential classics.

But really, with the countless designer brands in the market, don't you think it's getting harder and harder to pinpoint the latest brag bag or show-off shoes? You probably don't even have the time to peruse every single magazine and fashion collection out there.

Well, the good news is, we've done it for you.

For your consideration, here are the latest accessories trends for Fall/Winter 2007. We've chosen only those that suit our sweltering climate. Thus, no need to wear gloves, no matter how big a trend they are.

Go ahead, pick a trend and try it on with confidence. Oh, and have fun in the process, please!

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

PHOTOS WWW.STYLE.COM

Technicolor touches

FENDI

CHLOE

CHANEL

BALENCIAGA

Add oomph to an otherwise somber getup with a jolt of color in the form of bright-colored pumps or a lavish and vibrant purse.

Hat tricks

MARC JACOBS

LOUIS VUITTON

MISSONI

Retro hats are all the rage! Channel Marlene Dietrich in a tip-tilted hat, or don a short-brimmed topper that will make you look like a proper lady. A floppy beret inspired by 17th-century Dutch painter Vermeer is also a fashionable choice.

Hold it!

BOTTEGA VENETA

FENDI

MARC JACOBS

Grab a fashionably fun day clutch and have a blast! Structured or soft, these bags are this season's definite must-haves.

Pump it up

RALPH LAUREN

STELLA MCCARTNEY

MICHAEL KORS

Womanly fashions are back in fashion, and with it, pumps in all sorts of styles. Pick a colorful pair to liven up neutral clothing, or go for unusual but interesting accents such as wooden or golden heels.

Pretty purse

VERSACE

OSCAR DE LA RENTA

MICHAEL KORS

Complement your lady-like wardrobe and pumps with a sleek structured bag that holds its shape and comes in all styles, colors and sizes.

Luxe life

RALPH LAUREN

HERMES

YSL

Luxury is the name of the fashion game. Time to invest in timeless pieces made of black crocodile. An Hermes Kelly (or Birkin!) is the bag of all time, but other items such as classic pumps or a clutch are just as worthy.

Sturdy but stylized

ZAC POSEN

MARC JACOBS

MARNI

Historically, Oxford shoes were constructed of heavy leather and were quite plain. Not so nowadays, as these stylized versions prove. Choose a pair with heels or wedges, in colors that run the whole gamut of the rainbow, or go for brogues, Oxford shoes that have fringe or wing tips, and are low-heeled.

RAF SIMMONS

DIOR HOMME

MARC BY MARC JACOBS

GUCCI

PRADA

CHRIS VAN ASSCHE

CHRIS VAN ASSCHE

LANVIN

COSTUME NATIONAL

From drab to debonair

From page D3

PHOTOS WWW.STYLE.COM

wardrobe, but restraint is always the key."

More key trends

Below are additional key trends to watch out for, reinterpret and eventually call your own as we enter the Fall-Winter '07 mode.

- Pants are still slim-fitted, preferably flat front and low rise.
- The same silhouette works well with jeans (worn with slim belts either in braided or distressed leather) and, to a certain extent, shorts, which are now narrower and fall slightly above the knee.
- Two- or three-buttoned jackets, which can either be padded or unpadded for a more relaxed look, are short, fitted, almost cropped.
- Slim tuxedo jackets can be fashioned from textured fabrics or can be done with such details as satin trims. The same elements apply to pants.
- Shirts with slim silhouettes have short collars, higher armholes and less volume around the sleeves.
- Front or back darting, once exclusively confined to women's tops, are now almost de rigueur as far as men's shirts are concerned.
- In keeping with his retro chic/neo-classic tuxedo dressing, Ortiz recommends such materials as light tropical wool, raw denim, stretch cotton and pique, brushed twill, matte "satinized" rayon and textured fabrics like herringbone, hound's tooth, pinstripes and glen plaids.
- Apart from denim in various shades, Nocom is partial to fine corduroy, canvass, pure and stretch cotton, knits, checkered, oxford and pinstriped fabrics.
- Shoes are semi-pointed and made of either patent or matte leather.
- Ditch the rubber flip-flops in favor of luxurious leather slippers or driving shoes made of patent leather or some exotic animal skin for those lazy weekends in Tagaytay.
- Other accessories of the moment are suspenders, slim neckties and eyewear, tote bags in leather or industrial materials and duffel bags in canvass.

cut & keep

Bronzed and beautiful

You want to look as if the sun has just kissed your face, so pick a color that simply warms up the skin

Text and makeup by Barbi Chan

ASIDE FROM LIPSTICKS, BRONZERS should be a woman's best friend.

If you are on the "lighter side," and it is nearly impossible to achieve that glowing, sun-kissed tan even after hours of baking in the sun (which for me personally is a mortal sin), then bronzers are our savior.

A lot of fair-skinned people have a hard time acquiring that "bronzed like a goddess" look. Instead, they get red (like lobsters) and instead of a tan, they get freckles and melasma (the number one sign of skin damage).

My piece of advice? Forget the sun! Invest in makeup and you'd definitely end up looking like a bronze goddess minus the skin cancer!

The goal when applying bronze is to look sunny and natural. You want to look as if the sun has just kissed your face. Pick a color that simply warms up the skin. Bronzer should never be more than two shades darker than your original skin color.

BEFORE

Pink or peach-toned bronzer is good for fair skin. Copper shades work well with olive skin, and orange copper tones complement dark skin (Think of Tyra Banks or Oprah).

The consistency of the bronzer should also be dependent on your skin condition. If you have dry to combination skin, then gel or liquid types are suitable for you. For oily skin, powder bronzers are the best. They mattify the skin and remove excess oil while giving skin a subtle hint of sheen.

One product I've tried and am in awe of is Youngblood Mineral Radiance Powder. This compact powder bronzer comes in four different tones and complements almost all skin tones, from light to dark. Also, it doesn't leave orange streaks unlike other bronzers I've tried.

It is also multi-use. I've tried using it as a blush, eyeshadow and highlighter. It's fragrance-free, which means it's good even for sensitive skin. We all know that fragrance can cause skin allergies in some people.

1. Before applying the bronzer, make sure that the skin is clean and all traces of oil are removed.
2. Apply concealer first on areas that need coverage. Use your normal regular concealer.
3. Remember that bronzers shouldn't be applied on the whole face. Use your regular foundation first.
4. Once you're ready to apply the bronzer, the first step is to feel your cheekbones. Make a C from your cheeks to your temple. Then slowly apply the bronzer (using a long-haired bronzing brush) from your cheeks all the way to your temple.
5. Apply the bronzer on the bones above your temple, bridge of your nose and the chin to mimic a natural tan (the sun hits these areas the most).
6. Do not forget to apply a touch of bronzer on your neck area to make the application look more natural and minimize the contrast between neck and face.
7. Lightly dust on some translucent powder to blend the bronzer.

Other products to check out are Laura Mercier Bronze and Body Shop Shimmer Waves in bronze.

E-mail bc_maybelline_ny@yahoo.com

AFTER

Clear as clear can be

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

AS WHAT MY FAVORITE "STAR Wars" hero Master Yoda says, "Something clear, this way comes!" There's a trend among top beauty and fashion mavens—to abstain from wearing black from July 9-16.

The reason: A staggering 44 percent of Filipinos still suffer from dandruff despite the wide array of brands available in the market today, so black clothing, although elegant and timeless, is an accident waiting to happen for the multitude of dandruff-infested individuals.

Being one who gets recurring dandruff due to stress, greasy shampoo, hormonal and temperature changes, I have yet to find a treatment to which my dandruff doesn't get immune after a while.

So I guess I am banning black this season. Will update you if a new shampoo formula about to be launched works for me, long-term or not. This time, I hope the answer is indeed "Clear."

GLYTONE Clarifying program

Acne treatment

It is that time of the year again when my acne-prone skin goes out of control, with huge pores breaking out despite my faithful skincare maintenance.

Now it gets more complicated as I have to incorporate antiaging products which cause my skin to break out even more if the formula is either too rich or too mild.

A potent face-peeling program is usually my way of dealing with the breakout. A few months ago Glytone distributors approached me to try their Clarifying Normal to Oily skin treatment for acne, hyperpigmentation and wrinkles. It also has a normal-to-dry-skin variant for those with a tendency toward uncomfortable tightness and hyper-pigmented skin.

Result: There is a sting, but the peeling and the redness are not as severe as the most popular brand. My skin cleared up and evened out, but the removal of my more stubborn brown sun spots took slightly longer than the more popular brand.

Most of the drastic flaking came from my chin and nose where dead skin and blemishes caused by excess sebum and oil accumulate most.

After a full month, childhood friends raved about how smooth and poreless my skin was and that I seemed to have stopped aging. They said I was 20 years younger.

The skin on my cheeks and jaw were firm and line-free while the rest was poreless with a luminous glow even without foundation.

High-moisture content with very little oil equals baby skin. For inquiries, call 81-KAKAI to find out which doctor's clinic carries the line. The treatment needs doctor's supervision because it is very potent and some skin may be too sensitive and react negatively.

Another potent alternative is Dermclinic's Nu Derm Supreme System, which is formulated specifically for Asian skin and also needs a doctor's supervision.

As the name suggests, Supreme System has the same purpose and number of steps as Obagi, with extra treats that come with the skin-whitening and -smoothening tablets to improve skin quality from head to toe, not just from the neck up.

There have been rave reviews from friends on the treatment. For price inquiries and other concerns, call Dermclinic at 8186477 or check www.dermclinic.com.ph.

VERA Wang Princess

New fragrance

Vera Wang is known for her classy modern minimalist style in bridal gowns and fragrances.

This time she seems to have been thinking more about debutantes and bridesmaids when she created her latest fragrance, Princess.

The new scent is very frivolous but in a good way; it has the lingering scent of dark chocolate truffles and vanilla chiffon cake and the initial spray has mouth-watering notes of apples, mandarin and apricots.

The scent is perfect for the cooler rainy weather, but too rich for last summer's heat. Pretty much a connoisseur's fragrance though not quite as hardcore sweet as its predecessors, Wang shows she has something for the girly-girl who refuses to be an adult in the conventional way.

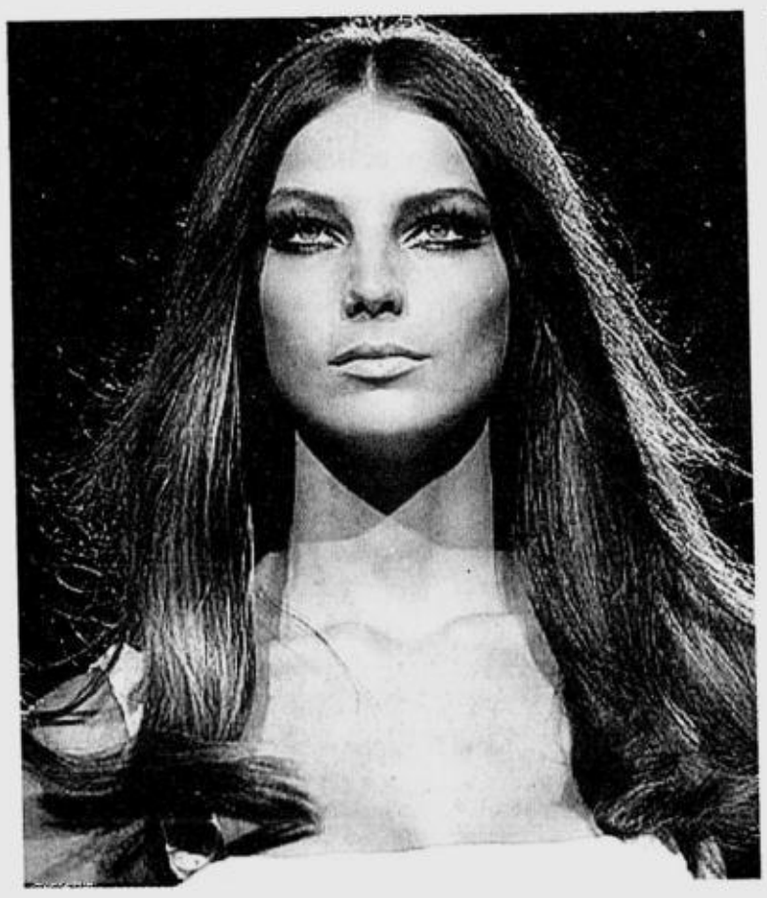
Even the packaging is straight out of a fairy tale: a heart-shaped amethyst crystal with a gold crown lid with faux jewels. Price: 50 ml (P3,850); 100ml (P5,050).

E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com

CLEAR Antidandruff shampoo

Fall in love

From page D6



Versace

Pat McGrath: "We've gone graphic. A wing, very black, very solid; a little bit of graphite on top; white eyeliner for the eyes. Pale lips."
Guido Palau: "It's always Donatella hair. She's always the inspiration for the woman on the catwalk. It's always a glamorous woman. It's getting simpler. We're trying to bring it down but keep that sexiness that this house is known for."

Preen

Kim Brown: "We wanted to take an '80s inspiration—a mood in the eye, a really subtle eye shadow that almost looks like the skin is just a bit deeper in color in that area. Really fresh, really simple color on the lips, and heavy eyelashes.
Samantha Hillerby: "The inspiration really came from 1986 supermodels. Untouched hair, but done in a really modern way. We're blowdrying the hair completely back off the face; the hair looks really virginal and soft and quite young and fresh."

Alberta Ferretti

Luigi Murenu: "The hair is very graphic today. It's almost like a warrior goddess, simplistic and graphic."

Alexander McQueen

Eugene Souleiman: "The past few seasons for me have been quite romantic, but that's all changed. Hair has gone a bit Tim Burton. The whole idea about this collection is that everything is based on witches."

PHOTOS FROM WWW.STYLE.COM

Diane Von Furstenberg

Matthew Nigara: "The spirit of the makeup is very independent, very confident, very deliberate. It's very quick and very structured."

Bottega Veneta

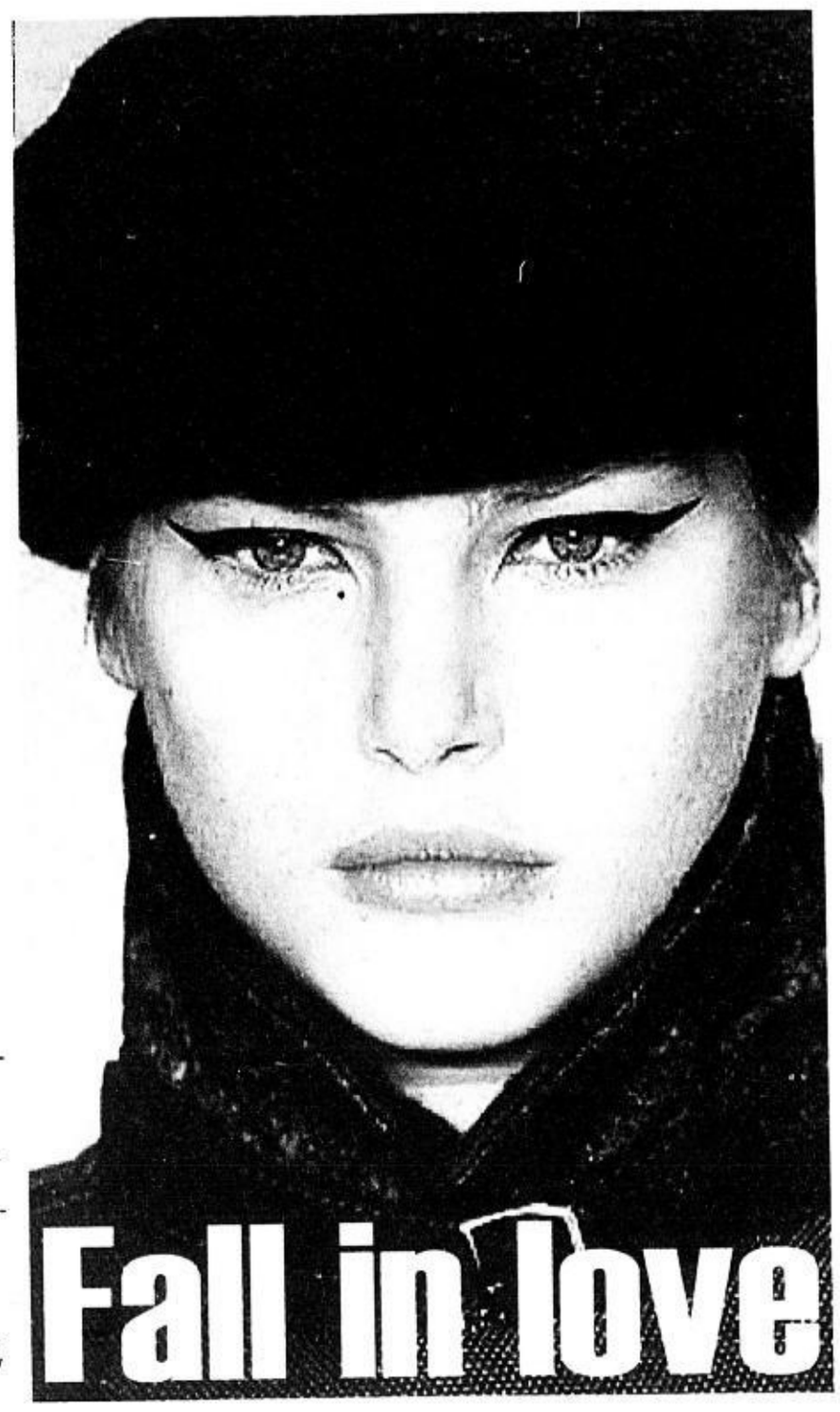
Charlotte Tilbury: "We used all these pale, kind of peach pigments to highlight the cheekbones, the nose—using Strobe Cream on any of the bones, on the décolleté, the arms."

Jil Sander

Tomohiro Ohashi: "The hair emphasizes simplicity, with very much the horizontal line. There's a little bit of a futuristic feeling in it. I want it to be simple and beautiful."

Gucci

Pat McGrath: "We have a very glamorous, strong woman. We were looking at makeup from the '40s: strong mouth, beautifully groomed brow, beautiful skin."
Luigi Murenu: "The hair is the pinnacle of glamour. There is a huge '40s influence."



Fall in love

Simple, sexy, and easy are the three best adjectives to describe the look for Autumn

Louis Vuitton

The vaguely Vermeer-inspired fuzzy sweaters, glimmery lamé skirts, and oversize berets at Louis Vuitton called for makeup that was "fresh, rebellious and strong," said Pat McGrath. She evoked the 17th-century Dutch master with pristine, light skin courtesy of CoverGirl Advanced Radiance Restorative Cream Foundation, followed by a sheer veil of loose powder brushed lightly across the face.

Roberto Cavalli

Lisa Butler: "The look is very 1940's-inspired. We're doing a minimal, tinted moisturizer on the face, and we're removing the ends of the eyebrows because we're drawing a fake line further out. There's a very, very dark matte red mouth."

Alessandro Dell'acqua

Luigi Murenu: "I decided to do the hair masculine-feminine. As you can see, the front part of the hair is side-parted, and it's very reminiscent of a masculine look. Almost like a 1950s hairdo you just brush with a comb. But the back is a very feminine silhouette, very sultry and luscious."

Christopher Kane

Val Garland: "The inspiration for the show today was Elvira, so the look is a little bit ladylike and a little bit sinister. She's got quite an evil, catlike eye. It's all about the sooty black eyeliner with a pink line behind it. It's quite dramatic, but very simple."

KNOCKOUT!

Ria Francisco-Prieto

Oscar dela Renta

Pat McGrath: "We're focusing on the eyes and beautiful skin. I thought it would be really good if this girl looks sophisticated and smoldering, with a slight edge. It's all about that pale mouth and that smoked eye."

Michael Kors

Dick Page: "She's always going to be healthy and warm and glowing. She wants the full fantasia of the American dream. She's got enough money to follow the sun, so we just color her in and send her out there."

Marc Jacobs

Dick Page: "Much to their chagrin, we're bleaching the girls' eyebrows and then we're sketching in the finer brow. It's pretty monochrome."

Vera Wang

Lucia Pieroni: "The mood is a Russian winter, just before the Revolution. The Bolsheviks have got very heavy eyebrows, very clean, natural skin. The Czarinas are very pale, with really, really deep red lips."

THE LOOK FOR FALL 2007 IS SOMEthing to fall for. It celebrates luminous skin and accentuates the eyes. The look is a little romantic with that touch of rawness that's sexy without going overboard.

It also accepts a woman's natural skintone. Unlike before when white and tan were all the rage, this Fall is all about celebrating the color you were born in.

Simple, sexy and easy are the three best adjectives to describe it. My favorite look would be that purveyed by Louis Vuitton, since it is clean and has a sexy eyeliner that plays up the eye.

As much as makeup should be fun and a little flirty, it doesn't mean you have to use loud colors, and more so if you don't know your makeup basics. You just might end up looking like a clown.

The look for Fall is classy with a touch of old Hollywood. Glam but not too out there. It is great for every day, and is easy to sport.

Here's a behind-the-scenes look at New York's Fall 2007 shows as described by the makeup mavens and hairstylists.

FALL/ D5

Valentino

Pat McGrath: "There was definitely real glamour going around, especially today. At Valentino we're doing a whole '40s strong woman: strong look, strong eyes. When you think of that period you think of the women being strong, independent, flawless."

Karl Lagerfeld

Emmanuel Sammartino: "The inspiration was to have girls with a rock 'n' roll attitude, to have two very different attitudes. The lips and the eyes are very different, but the result is very, very interesting. It's fun."

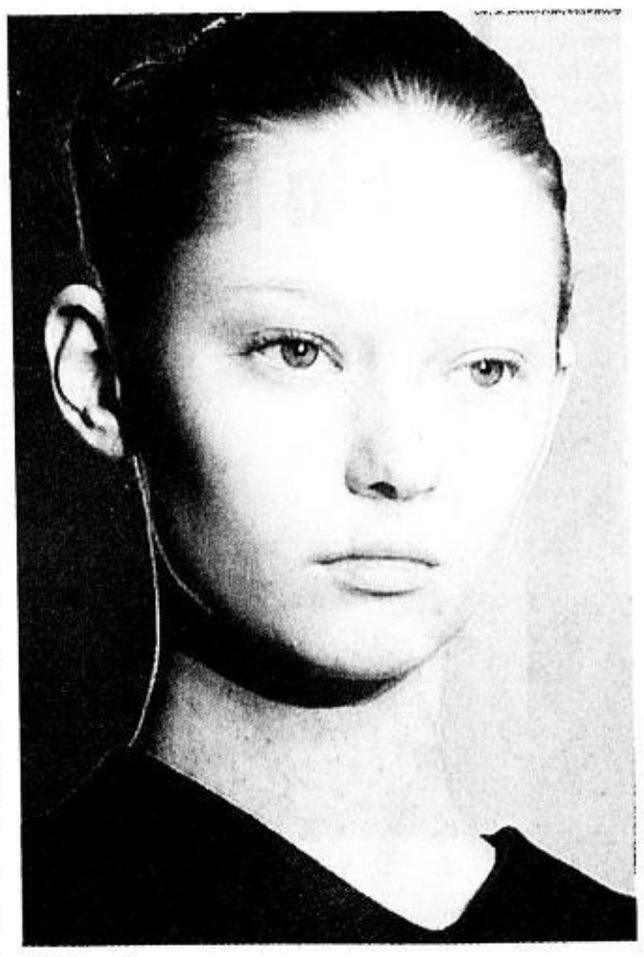
Marios Schwab

Sally Branka: "These are just strong, sassy young girls who are all about their individual style, so the look is anything from a strong brow to a cheek to a lip to an eye.

Rudi Lewis: "Basically, we're just trying to give the girls a really nice natural wave with a little bit of volume to it, so the hair is very light, very understated, nothing too over-the-top. Just kind of sexy, but controlled and nice and light."

Jonathan Saunders

Miranda Joyce: "It's quite pop-y in a way, quite arty. Some of the models have got green in their eyebrows, and some have got pink. And some are quite natural, with a stronger, dark eye."



Jil Sander

Peter Philips: "Luminous skin, with a soft gray on the eye that is hardly visible—but it's there—and a soft sculpting of the face in a very subtle way."

Zac Posen

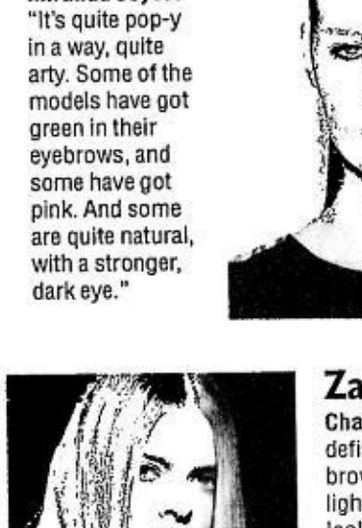
Charlotte Tilbury: "We are definitely enhancing the brow. We're doing it in a lighter version so it doesn't look too 'Zac.' I feel it's a modern-day New York Snow White. And we're putting a little bit of moisturizer just on the temples so it does that whole dewy, fresh thing. Modern fairy tale."

Paul Smith

Petros Petrohilos: "It's quite a graphic look, with neon colors. We're using a pink fuchsia line on the top of the lid and a black line close to the lashes, quite a bit of mascara, and a bit of contouring, and we're lightening the lips with a bit of concealer. The skin is kept quite fresh."

Alexander McQueen

Charlotte Tilbury: "The look today is Elizabeth Taylor and Cleopatra."



Anna Sui

Pat McGrath: "We're looking at Anna's inspiration board and she had pre-pop Warhol inspirations. It's just completely sheer and natural."

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) or email us at entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Judging Jed Madela

RP's world singing champ is now a permanent juror at the 'Talent Olympics'

By Cora Lucas

JED MADELA HAS BARELY RESTED FROM A just-concluded US concert tour and already, he's back on the road.

For the second year since he won six golds in the World Championships of the Performing Arts (WCOPA), Jed will form part of the competition's panel of jurors, aside from rendering the opening and closing numbers. That will henceforth be a yearly stint for the 2005 WCOPA Champion of the World and Grand Champion of the World, who bested 3,000 contestants from 52 countries.

Jed has high hopes for this year's batch of contestants from the Philippines, who showcased those extraneous vocal exertions during a fund-raising concert last month. "They are the chosen few, *walang tapon*," says Jed, who will be leaving on the 27th for the July 28-Aug. 5 "Official Talent Olympics" for performers and entertainers.

As a juror, Jed believes the Filipinos stand a good chance of winning because, aside from having great voices, he says, they perform their songs in a way that moves audiences.

Meanwhile, Jed has been busy preparing for his Metro Bar concert tomorrow, his 28th birthday.

"It's not a big production; it's an intimate show," the singer says of the concert produced for him by a group of fans. "I'll be performing with Prime Council, the band I used to sing with before I went solo. There'll be a request portion, dancing, jamming with the audience. I'll also sing songs from my new album."

Jed, whose range lends itself well to pop, jazz, R&B and even rock, dishes out smooth-cruising melodies in "Only Human," his third and latest album (Universal Records). Released last May, it is a "personal album" for Jed, as he handpicked the materials.

'Power ballads'

"The record company allowed me to choose the songs and sing them the way I wanted," he says. He calls his kind of music "power ballads." He explains, "They're easy listening songs with a touch of the intense. They start slow and explode in the end."

There are 17 tracks, including a duet with Gary Valenciano ("Hard Habit to Break") and another with Rachelle Ann Go ("Narito"). Also included is a stirring rendition of "The Impossible Dream," which he sang during the opening of last year's WCOPA.

He has since shared the stage with his idols Martin Nievera, Gary V, Regine Velasquez, Lani Misalucha and Sharon Cuneta. He considers the "Martin Nievera heir apparent" tag a compliment, although he doesn't think anyone can match the "Concert King" as yet.

Jed equally reveres his favorite black singers, particularly the late American soul singer Luther Vandross. "He sings with such ease and power, with so much heart. He took ordinary songs like 'Hello' and made them sound intense."

Having come from a band, he says, "I enjoy singing songs from different genres. I started out in a show band. We played everything. *Sabi ko, ayoko talaga mag* solo *kasi masaya and banda. Naging* comfort zone *ko 'yung banda.* When I performed alone, *parang iba... natatakot [ako], ninenerbyos.* But I realized I had to grow. Happy *naman ako na 'yung banda ko, walang naging* friction. *Hanggang ngay-*

JUDGING/ E3

BIRTHDAY BOY. The champion turns 28 tomorrow. EDWIN BACASMAS

Experience the NEW technology in direct colour

NEW IGORA Duality

BEST recommended AFTER Hair Straightening, Hair Rebonding or Hair Relax

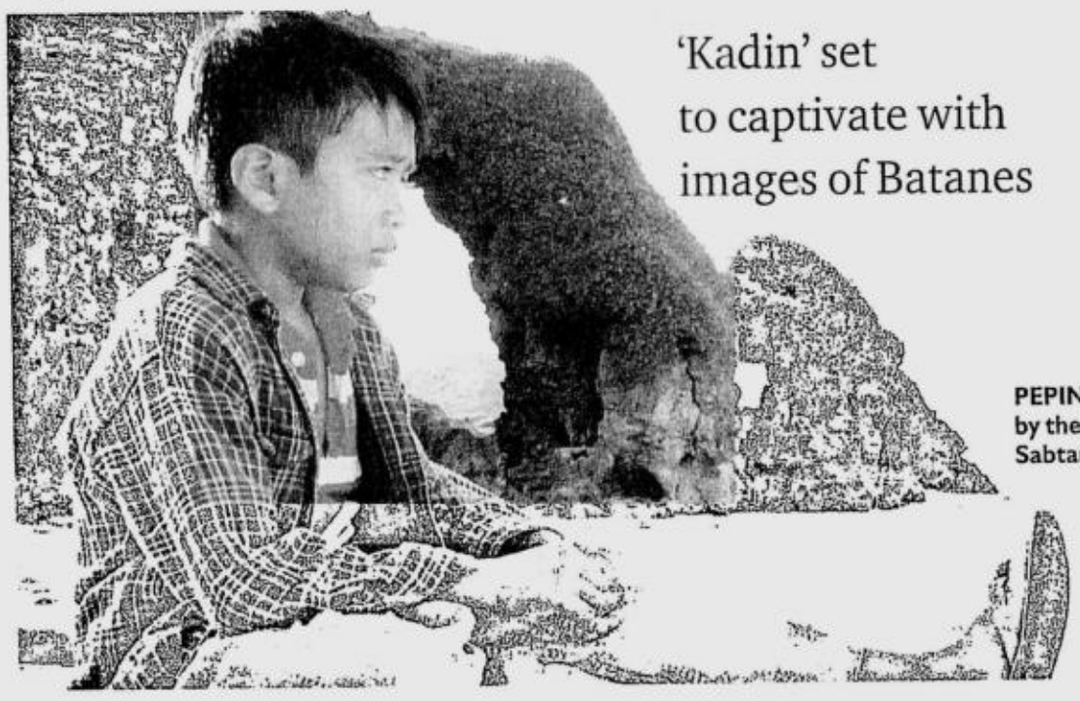
Get 20% OFF

offer good from July 1 - 31, 2007

Available only at the following Freshaire branches: SM Megamall, SM Fairview, SM THE BLOCK, SM Mall of Asia, SM Southmall, SM Dasmariñas, SM Sta. Rosa, Ayala MRT Station, Festival Mall and Walter Mart Makati

Per DTI-NCR permit# 2457, series of 2007

freshaire
the original hair straightening specialist



'Kadin' set to captivate with images of Batanes

PEPING Cardona by the seaside of Sabtang

Carnival games, cats and bonding with Nikki at the 'Potter' premiere

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE **Adolfo Alix Jr.**'s new film, "Kadin (The Goat)," if only for the breathtaking images of Batanes.

We are excited that a movie has been shot in a place whose weather-beaten charm has always beguiled us in snapshots. But it looks like "Kadin" has an interesting story line as well. A boy's search for a missing goat, his family's only source of income, becomes a coming of age odyssey.

"Kadin" will premiere as one of the competing films in the Third Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, which runs from July 20 to 29.

***

Nobody screams our name when we walk on the red carpet at movie premieres. But the few times that we brought our eldest daughter to these events, someone would always scream hers: "Nikki! Nikki!"

It happened again Sunday at the LA premiere of "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" at the famous Grauman's Chinese Theatre. As we walked on the red carpet past **Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint** and **Emma Watson** who were busy minding mikes dangled by the media, a female voice was heard over the screams of fans from the other side of Hollywood Boulevard.

We dared pause

We stopped to appreciate the robust yells of this girl hired by our enterprising daughter to scream her name. Kidding. But we dared to pause—a big no-no for the unsmiling, black-suited guards paid to keep anonymous dregs like us moving on the red carpet. Only stars were allowed to stop and pose for the press photographers.

In the blinding sun of LA in summer, Nikki and I squinted, eyes covered in *de rigueur* sunglasses, to see who was yelling her name. It was impossible—hundreds of screaming fans occupying a whole block of the boulevard.

We made a mental note to hire someone to yell *our* name next time we bring Nikki to a premiere.

(Much earlier, at the premiere of Disney's "Cars," a friend of Nikki's who was on the bleachers called out her name on this same spot. When Nikki spotted the friend across the street, the girl asked, no malice intended, "Why are you on *that* side?" We laughed.)

It didn't take long for the burly guards to notice two of us from the hoi polloi lingering on the red carpet. We were asked to move. Nikki took one last look at the bleachers before we entered the cool refuge of Grauman's lobby.

One nice thing when premieres are held at regular movie houses, compared to, for example, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) headquarters: There's soda and popcorn—a treat for everyone, since dinner could be many hours late. At AMPAS, you couldn't even

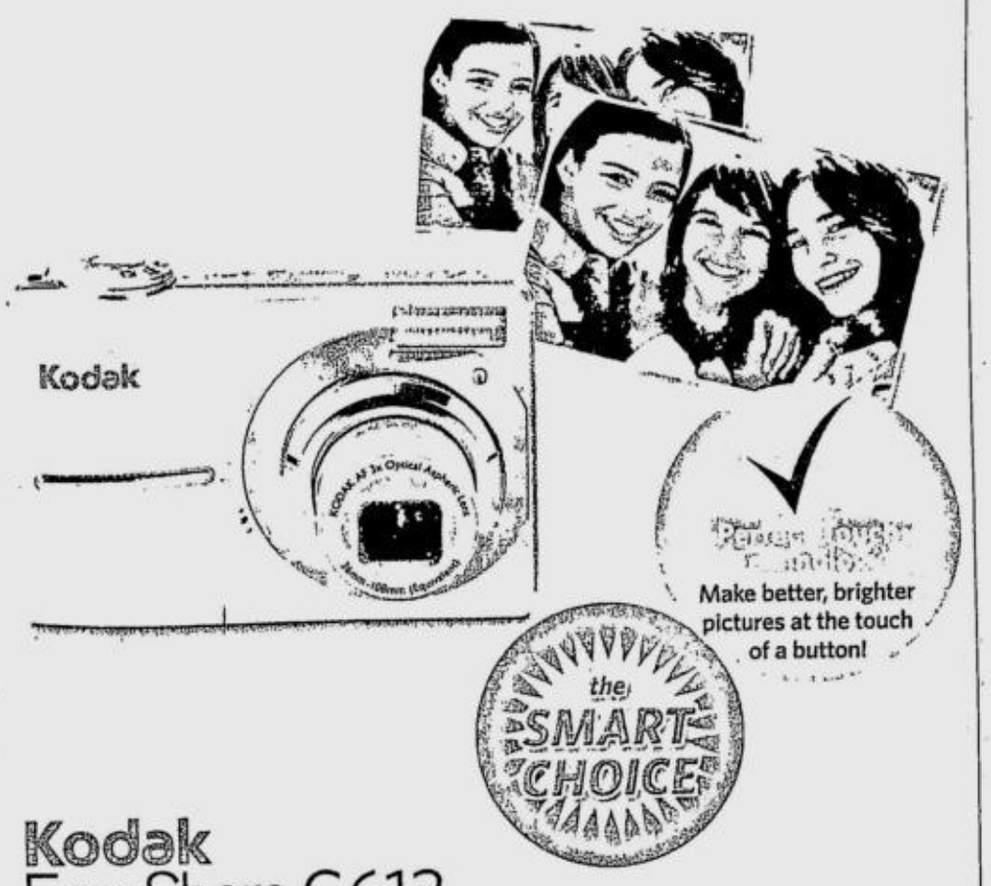
CARNIVAL/ E3

Visit LRI's over 30 furniture/furnishings showrooms and art galleries.

LRI BUSINESS PLAZA 210 Nicanor Garcia St. (Reposo) Bel- Air II Village, Makati City 895-1772 895-5470

Perfect your smile.

Show off your best smile with Kodak EasyShare digital cameras. With its smart features, your smile just gets better and brighter.



Kodak EasyShare C613

• 6.2 Megapixels • 3X Optical zoom
• 2.4" LCD • TV quality video with sound and print options

P7,995

FREE Camera Case

V1003
• 10 Megapixels
• 3X Optical zoom, 2.5" LCD
• Continuous MPEG-4 video with sound and print options

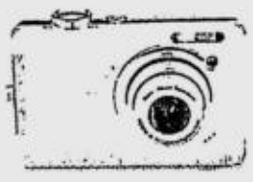
P19,995
P1,667/mo.

FREE 1 GB SD Card and Camera Case

V803
• 8 Megapixels
• 3X Optical zoom, 2.5" LCD
• Continuous MPEG-4 video with sound and print options

P16,995
P1,417/mo.

FREE 1 GB SD Card and Camera Case



C763
• 7.1 Megapixels
• 3X Optical zoom, 2.5" LCD
• Anti-blur mode

P12,995
P1,082/mo.

FREE 512 MB SD Card and Camera Case

FREE

0% Interest for 12 months

Kodak EasyShare digital camera

Participating outlets: 5th Avenue, Abenson, Accent Micro, Anson's, Asianic, Automatic Centre, Avid, Camerahaus, Colours, Complink, Electroworld, General Photo, Island Photo, Kameraworld, SM Appliance Center, SM Department Store Kodak Express, Silicon Valley, Villman, Western Appliance, and other participating IT, Consumer Electronics, and Kodak Express outlets.

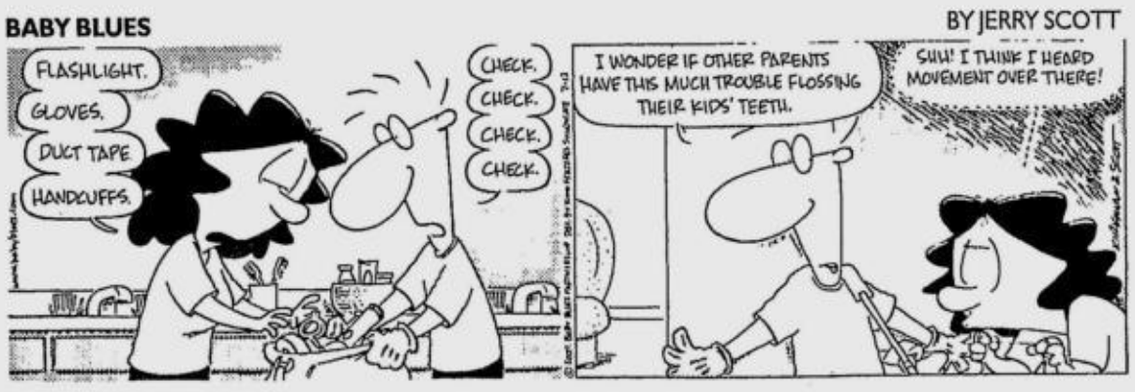
ComicRelief

e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph

GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT



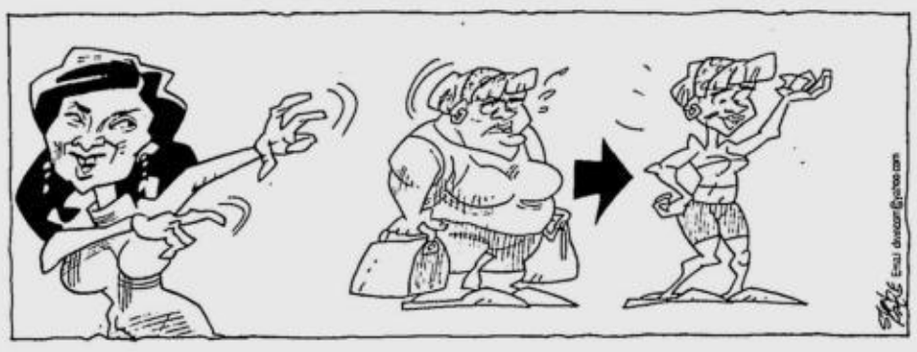
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS



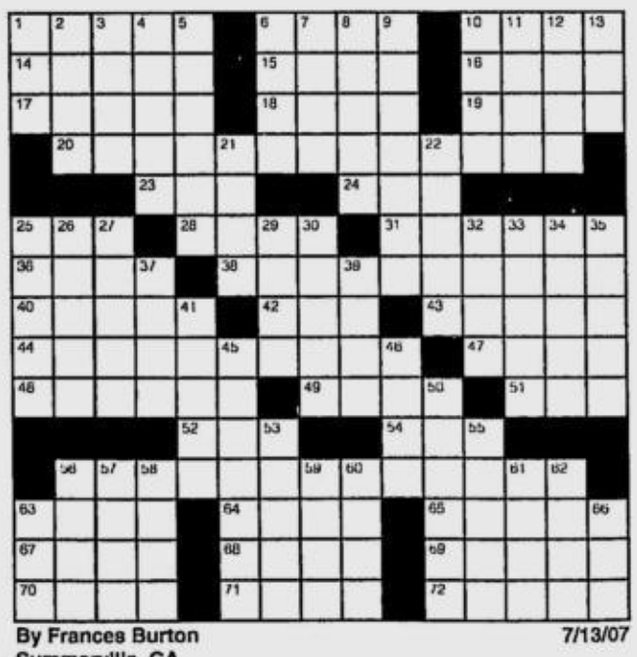
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Hold tightly
6 Northern Scandinavian
10 Whipped up
14 Lively dance
15 __ fixe (obsession)
16 Gusto
17 Accounting inspection
18 Merit
19 Few and far between
20 Challenging an actor?
23 Surpass
24 Center of activity
25 Take to the slopes
28 Appendage
31 Metrical foot
36 "__ Misbehavin'"
38 Telephoning an actor?
40 Skeleton
42 Guided
43 Follow
44 Being in debt to an actor?
47 In the past
48 Dental deposit
49 Neatnik's opposite
51 Drain
52 Cow sound
54 Long, long time period
56 Stealing from an actor?
63 10-speed, e.g.
64 Writer Quindlen
65 Aerial stunts
67 Farmland division
68 Comes down with
69 Computer message
70 Twelve months
71 God of love
72 Simple song

DOWN
1 Audit expert's letters
2 Earsplitting
3 "M*A*S*H" star
4 Avoid
5 Pound a beat
6 Legal claim
7 Garden of Eden resident
8 Roost
9 Pittsburgh player
10 Host Griffin
11 Jai __
12 Dang's cousin
13 Compass pt.
21 Larger-than-life
22 Astern
25 Wooden shoe
26 Plains tribe
27 "__ Sanctum"
29 Hood's girlfriend
30 Render holy
32 Spanish painter Joan
33 Husks of grains
34 City in central New York
35 Lug: var.
37 Revival meeting shelter
39 False god
41 Hindu teacher
45 Very ancient period
46 Yuletide
50 Seethed
53 Proprietor
55 Ruth's mother-in-law
56 School in Houston
57 Gumbo ingredient
58 Foamy brew
59 Serious about
60 Highlands miss
61 Castle barrier
62 Barbecue rod
63 Prolonged bark
66 Like a fox

By Frances Burton
Summerville, GA
7/13/07

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

A	N	T	E	D		O	K	A	P	I		G	A	D
N	E	R	V	E		R	E	C	O	N		A	T	E
T	H	E	A	C	C	E	N	T	I	S		B	O	P
I	R	S		L	O	O	T	S		T	R	A	M	P
C	U	S	P	I	D				P	A	I	R		
			O	N	Y	O	U	T	H	T	O	D	A	Y
P	A	S	T	E		A	N	O	D	E		I	T	O
L	I	P	S		E	T	A	T	S		A	N	O	N
E	N	A		C	R	E	P	E		U	P	E	N	D
B	U	T	T	H	E	S	T	R	E	S	S			
		T	E	A	S				T	H	E	O	R	Y
A	B	E	T	S		D	O	O	N	E		U	A	E
E	E	R		I	S	O	N	P	A	R	E	N	T	S
R	A	E		N	O	N	E	T		E	M	C	E	E
O	D	D		G	U	E	S	S		D	U	E	L	S

(C)2007 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All rights reserved. 7/13/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're intelligent, tenacious and patient for whatever you want to go after. You'll work carefully and persistently to achieve your goals. Nevertheless, you're also bold and daring! People are fond of you because you're genuine, down-to-earth and not pretentious. You're always ready to take care of business at hand. Since 2004, you've been reinventing yourself. This year focuses on partnerships and close friendships.

Birthdate of: Harrison Ford, actor; Patrick Stewart, actor; Cameron Crowe, writer/director.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Try to find some private time or moments of solitude for yourself today. Childhood memories are quite likely occurring. You need time to think and be by yourself.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a good day for shopping, wheeling and dealing, buying and selling, signing contracts or negotiating with others. Get out there and hustle!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You're very aware of your cash flow today. Make friends with your bank account. Find out how much money you don't have. Trust your moneymaking ideas!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): The Moon is in your sign today. This can bring you a little bit of extra good luck; however, it can also make you more emotional than usual. (Chill out.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You've been working hard lately because you're ambitious. However, you need time to relax and be by yourself today if you can possibly swing this.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): A female friend has something to tell you today. Or perhaps you need to confide in someone? Either way, set aside time for a heart-to-heart talk with someone.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You might do something that calls attention to you in a public way today. Therefore, avoid public arguments. Be tactful and harmonious with others, especially bosses and parents.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Satisfy your desire to do something different today. You need a little adventure. Go someplace you've never been before. Talk to others from different backgrounds.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Focus on loose details connected with insurance matters, inheritances, taxes and debt. You might need to discuss the income or wealth of your partner. You might also have to compromise with someone whose values are different from yours.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Be patient with others today. Because the Moon is opposite your sign, you might feel they're opposing you. This is just a temporary thing—gone by Sunday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Spend a little time clearing up messy areas today. Reduce the clutter in your life. You want to feel more efficient and more effective in whatever you do.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This can be a playful, flirtatious day for you! Enjoy sports, romance, fun activities with children, the arts or slipping away on a vacation.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

5		6		1				9
			4					
		7	3			2		4
						1	3	
1								7
	2	5						
3		8			2	9		
					7			
9				5		7		6

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 7/13

©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

1	6	7	8	4	3	5	2	9
2	3	8	5	9	7	6	4	1
4	5	9	1	2	6	8	7	3
7	8	5	9	1	2	3	6	4
9	1	6	4	3	5	2	8	7
3	4	2	7	6	8	1	9	5
5	2	4	3	8	9	7	1	6
8	7	1	6	5	4	9	3	2
6	9	3	2	7	1	4	5	8

Difficulty Level ★★★

Judging Jed...

From page E1

on nandyan pa rin sila."

Jed, a Business Administration graduate of San Agustin College in Iloilo City, recalls that his father tried to keep him away from a singing career. Once, he was ordered back to Iloilo when it was discovered that he was singing in a band and not working as a flight steward, as he claimed.

All's well

Ironically, he says he learned the basic techniques in music from his dad, who conducted a choir in San Agustin.

And at last all is well, now that he has scored his biggest hit.

While judging for the WCOPA, Jed says he will meet up with US agents. His victory in the competition opened doors for an international career, which he pub on hold due to previous commitments—specifically a record contract with his home studio and a deal to join ABS-CBN's Sunday noontime show "ASAP."

Now, he says, "I have to go out and look for a bigger playground. The international scene? Why not?"

MAKING history in WCOPA: Jed and Rizza Navales AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Carnival games, cats and bonding ...

From page E1

smuggle in gum.

It's very democratic—you pick up the snacks from the same pile that **Rosario Dawson**, for instance, would get hers. There are no VIP lines.

Another thing you can count on at premieres is that the screening will start late, by at least 30 minutes. That's because the stars are held up by the media outside. The waiting masses inside, including early bird actresses, end up drinking too much soda. (Burp.)

Speeches are also staples. You also have to endure talks by the producer, director and the lead's personal assistant. Okay, not the last one but you get the picture.

Thankfully last Sunday evening, the remarks were short. Warner Brothers big boss Alan Horn called on producer **David Heyman**, who invited the following to join him in front: co-producer **David Barron**, director **David Yates**, cast mem-

CARNIVAL/ E4

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 HARRY POTTER: ORDER OF THE PHOENIX MTRCB GP 1:45, 4:40, 7:35, 10:30
2 HARRY POTTER: ORDER OF THE PHOENIX MTRCB GP 11:45, 2:40, 5:35
DIE HARD 4 (PG-13)
3 HARRY POTTER: ORDER OF THE PHOENIX MTRCB GP 12:15, 3:10
4 HARRY POTTER: ORDER OF THE PHOENIX MTRCB GP 1:15, 4:10, 10:00
PREMIERE THEATRE HARRY POTTER: ORDER OF THE PHOENIX 12:45 3:40 6:35, 9:30
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice
Catch the Cineplex Special
Catch the early screenings of "HARRY POTTER: ORDER OF THE PHOENIX" at 10:35 AM, 11:05 AM & 11:35 AM on JULY 14, Saturday and 10:20 AM, 11:15 AM & 11:45 AM on JULY 15, Sunday
6th floor, Shangri-La Plaza Mall EDSA corner Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City Call 633-7851 loc. 171/ 170 or 633-2227 for more details
Shangri-La Plaza

MAGIC 89.9 & Eastwood City present
JOURNEY OF Sound
Only the best artists here in Eastwood City
6 Cyclemind & Blue Ketchup
JULY 13 / 8PM
EASTWOOD CENTRAL PLAZA
FREE ADMISSION
Eastwood City
TEL. 687-6770 to 74 • 0917-8-EWCITY

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 HARRY POTTER 5 11:35, 2:25, 5:15 8:05, 10:50 GP
CINEMA 2 HARRY POTTER 5 12:15, 3:05, 5:55 8:45 GP
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a diversitainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 DIE HARD 4.0 11:05, 1:55, 4:45 7:35, 10:25 PG-13
CINEMA 4 HARRY POTTER 5 10:20, 1:05, 3:55 6:45, 9:35 GP
CINEMA 5 HARRY POTTER 5 10:45, 1:40, 4:30 7:20, 10:10 GP
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.
MUSIC MUSEUM
August 03 & 04, 2007 | Joey Albert & Regine Velasquez | 8:30 PM
August 24 & 25, 2007 | Ogie Alcasid | 8:00 PM
FESTIVINO
July 13, 20, 27, 2007 | Drag - Ons | 10:00 PM
August 8-9, 15-16, 22-23, 29-30 | Cerrudo Classico Classic | 8:00 PM
FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 722-4532 LOC 116

POWER PLANT CINEMA
ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL: 898-1440/41
DOLBY DIGITAL

HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX G 1:15,4:10,10:00	HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX G 2:10,5:05,8:00,11:00	HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX G 11:45,2:40,5:35, 8:30,11:30
HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX G 12:45,3:40,6:35,9:30	HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX G 12:15,3:10,6:05,9:00	HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX G 1:45,4:40,7:35,10:30

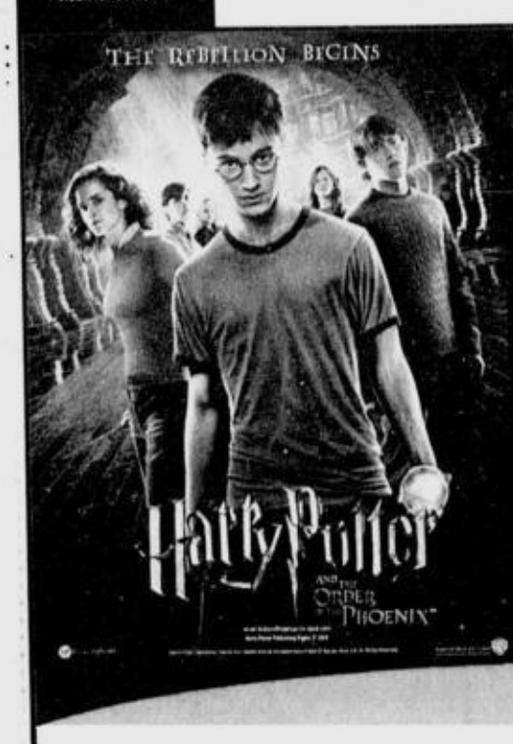
MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
To receive Eastwood City Events, Promos and Cinema schedule just text eastwood and send to 2948 for Globe, Smart & Sun Cellular subscriber
For inquiries, call 687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
1 HARRY POTTER 9:00, 12:35, 3:30, 6:25, 9:20 G
2 HARRY POTTER 8:00, 11:25, 2:10, 5:05, 8:00, 10:55 G
3 HARRY POTTER 1:20, 4:15, 7:10, 10:05 G
DIE HARD TRANSFORMERS
11:30, 2:20, 5:20 PG-13
8:30, 11:25 G

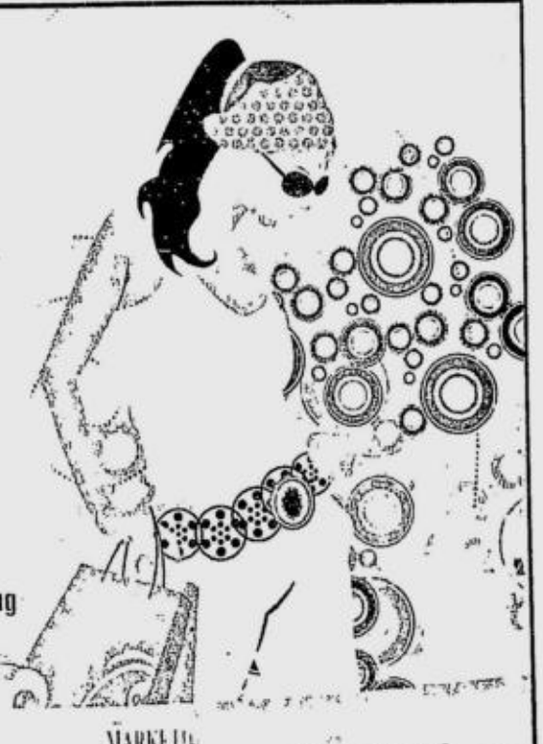
AT THE CINEMAS
Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729-7777

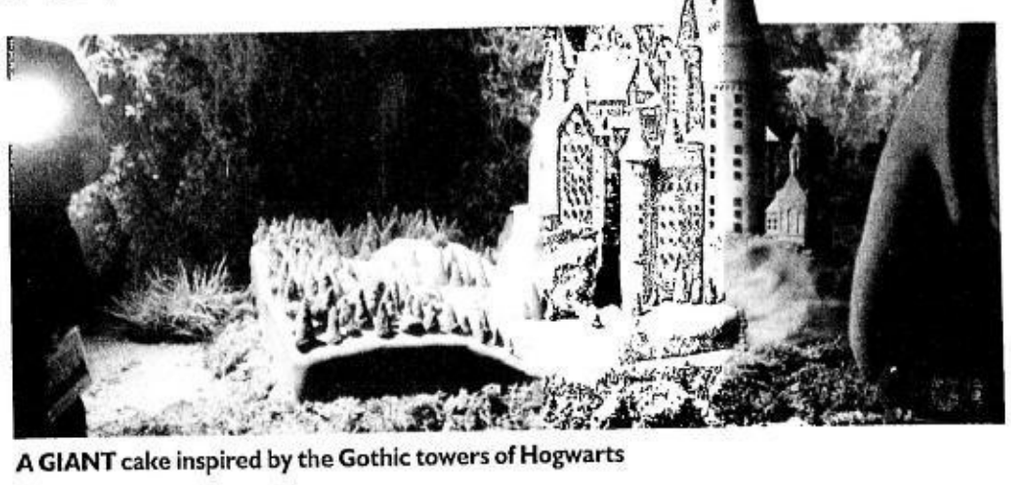
GLORIETTA 1	1 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	2 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	3 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	4 DIE HARD 4.0
GLORIETTA 4	1 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	2 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	3 THX HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 DIE HARD 4.0	5 TRANSFORMERS	6 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	7 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX
GREENBELT 1	1 DIE HARD 4.0	2 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX		
GREENBELT 3	1 THX HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 DIE HARD 4.0 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX GUARANTEED SEATS	5 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX GUARANTEED SEATS	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	2 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX		
	3 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	4 DIE HARD 4.0	5 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	2 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	3 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	4 DIE HARD 4.0
MARKET! MARKET!	1 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	2 DIE HARD 4.0		
	3 TRANSFORMERS	4 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	5 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	
TRINOMA • THX Certified • All-Digital Sound • All-Stadium Seating • Computerized Ticketing System • Recliner Seats	1 DIE HARD 4.0	2 TRANSFORMERS	3 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX GUARANTEED SEATS	4 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX GUARANTEED SEATS
	5 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	6 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	7 THX HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX GUARANTEED SEATS	

AT THE MALLS
CONCIERGE HOTLINE NUMBERS:
Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000
Ayala
glorietta — City Finds at the Park, July 13 & 14, 2007 at Glorietta 3 Park
GREENBELT — The Fashion Sale (Up to 70% discount from participating Greenbelt 3 & 4 stores) July 1 to 15, 2007
ALABANG TOWN CENTER — Electroworld Exhibit, July 13 to 22, 2007
AYALA CENTER CEBU — AV Surfer Exhibit, July 1 to 15, 2007
MARKET! MARKET! — BPI Appliance Madness, July 6 to 22, 2007
Greenbelt Onstage — ONSTAGE - The perfect spot for concerts, stage plays & coporate events is now accepting bookings for May to July 2007. For bookings, pls. call 752-7862 or 757-3861
Ayala MUSEUM — Damian Domingo: The First Great Filipino Painter Exhibit - June 19 to Jan. 6, 2008; Pioneers of Philippine Art - June 15 to January 6, 2008; For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma — BARBIE BIRTHDAY BASH, July 1 (2PM & 4PM) at the Activity Center; HUMAN'S RICO BLANCO EXHIBIT, July 2 to 15 (Mall Hours) at the 1st Level Exhibit Area



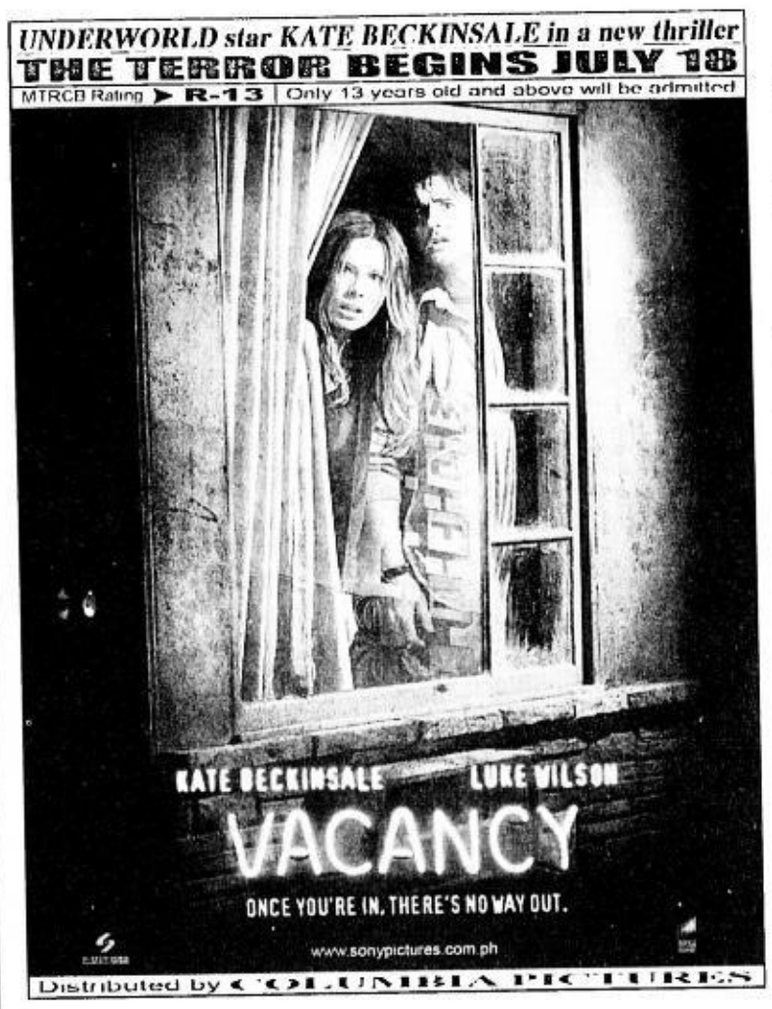
Experience the magic!
Harry Potter AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX
at THX CERTIFIED CINEMAS
Glorietta 4 • Greenbelt 3
Alabang Town Center • Trinoma
where every seat is the best in the house
NOW SHOWING AT AYALA MALLS CINEMAS
For screening schedule, pls. call 729-77777
MTRCB Rating: General Audience

CITY Finds AT THE PARK
July 13 &14; 4PM to 10PM
at the Glorietta 3 Park
Best buys and must haves from selected Glorietta stores.
Relax and Unwind as we mix outdoor shopping with chill music till sundown at G3 park.

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma



A GIANT cake inspired by the Gothic towers of Hogwarts

DANIEL Radcliffe signs autographs at 'Potter' premiere PHOTOS BY RUBEN V. NEPALES



Carnival games, cats and bonding . . .

From page E3

The entire lot, which used to be the Charlie Chaplin Studios, was transformed into Hogsmeade village

bers **Imelda Staunton**, Emma, Rupert and Daniel.

Rupert marveled aloud, "[This] is the coolest cinema I have ever been in." It is, indeed. You can spend hours just appreciating the details on the ornate ceiling of this Hollywood landmark.

Normally the stars rise from their seats when they are introduced. But the "Harry Potter" folks must have seen their fifth film several times so they did not take seats. It was nice to see these Londoners in LA, for a change. After their remarks, they filed out of the theater.

We were tempted to flee, too, since we had seen the film in London. But Nikki hadn't, so we stayed. We're glad we did because we appreciated the movie better on second viewing.

Cell phone queue

Afterwards, a big crowd quickly formed in the lobby as we stood in line to claim our cell phones and cameras from the guards. Even ex-Laker **Rick Fox**, kids in tow, had to queue up. He quickly activated his phone to call his limo driver. The equality ended there. We had to get on one of the huge tour buses commissioned to ferry guests to the party just a few blocks away.

The very short ride to the **Jim Henson** Studios was worth it. Fog from a machine set the ambience at the gates. The entire lot, which used to be the **Charlie Chaplin** Studios and included the A&M recording studio, was transformed into Hogsmeade village, with carnival games, fortune tellers, wizards, real owls and folks in Hogwarts uniform. A feast worthy of a ball at the Great Hall was laid out on long tables.

Even the men's room was done up in Prof. Umbridge's pink, complete with ornamental plates portraying kittens hanging on the walls, just like in that teacher's office.

It was refreshing to see Daniel, Rupert and Emma walking around, mingling with guests, signing autographs and posing for pictures. Well, bodyguards followed them around, true but at least the trio did not ensconce themselves, as some stars like to do, in a cordoned-off area, out of mere mortals' reach. We hope they stay that way—friendly and accessible.

Rupert, the tourist

Rupert told us that he enjoyed touring the Universal Studios the day before. The redhead wore a T-shirt with an image of Daniel as "Harry," which he had bought at the tourist mecca. We reminded Rupert that Nikki and some of her high school classmates had made a T-shirt for him. It was our Daddy mission to hand Rupert the homemade tee during our interview with him for "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire."

As soon as we sat down on the bus that would take us back to the Hollywood and Highland Center where we parked our car, Nikki and I brought out our note pads and pens to write down notes. We must have been quite a sight—father and daughter in synchronized motion. Yes, our 18-year-old writes, too.

The morning after the premiere, we found out who was screaming Nikki's name from the bleachers—it was a girl from her school.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.

RUPERT Grint with Nikki Nepales, the columnist's daughter.

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment

sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) or email us at entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

LIVING STARS

PHOTO BY RODEL ROTONI

OUT OF THE CLOSET

THAT'S a Mac Book that Bianca Gonzalez has on her lap. She fondly calls it "my can't-live-without." She has covered it with stickers, an idea she picked up from Ryan Agoncillo. More surprises from her closet—including 65 pairs of Converse Chucks—on page F4.

BOOTS ANSON-ROA

MY HUSBAND PETE AND I HAVE ALWAYS LIKED EARTH COLORS. EVEN THE PAINTINGS in our room are in those shades. Most are by Mario Munar, a protégé of HR Ocampo. Earth colors imbue our bedroom with a lot of warmth and comfort, making it a haven. But since it faces the road, we sometimes hear street children playing or residents from the nearby squatters' area chatting loudly. That's okay, because I look at it as my reality check. Even though we may have all the creature comforts, the noise reminds me of the harsh realities of life.

Bayani San Diego Jr.
PHOTO BY AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

FAVORITE NOOKS

You'd still rather be at... Gerry's Grill

ONLY P129!

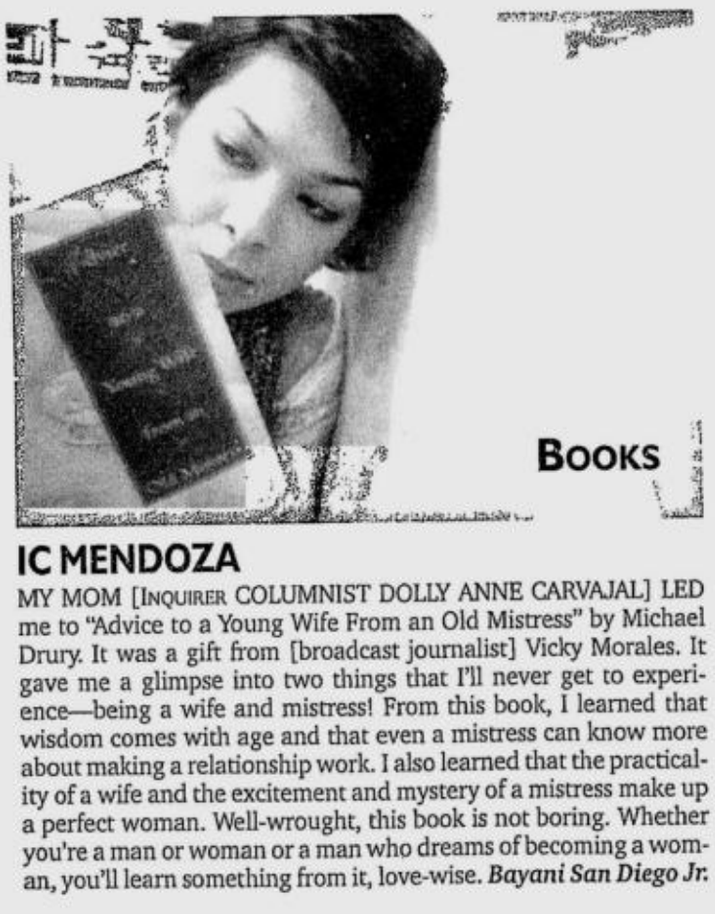
VALUE & VARIETY IN PLATES

Choose 1 Main Course & 1 Vegetable or Pancit

Served with plain rice and a glass of ice tea

Available until 5pm, Monday-Friday

* Available in participating outlets
* Promo availability may vary per outlet



BOOKS

IC MENDOZA

MY MOM [INQUIRER COLUMNIST DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL] LED me to "Advice to a Young Wife From an Old Mistress" by Michael Drury. It was a gift from [broadcast journalist] Vicky Morales. It gave me a glimpse into two things that I'll never get to experience—being a wife and mistress! From this book, I learned that wisdom comes with age and that even a mistress can know more about making a relationship work. I also learned that the practicality of a wife and the excitement and mystery of a mistress make up a perfect woman. Well-wrought, this book is not boring. Whether you're a man or woman or a man who dreams of becoming a woman, you'll learn something from it, love-wise. *Bayani San Diego Jr.*

TAIL TALES

PAOLO PARAISO

I NAMED OUR ROTWEILLER MAXIMUS, AFTER RUSSELL Crowe's character in "Gladiator." I heard that this breed could be traced back to the Roman era (as watchers for cattle). When we got him, Russell's movie was very popular. When Maximus was a puppy, I used to take him jogging with me. But he has grown so big, it's difficult to walk him. Worse, whenever he sees me, he humps me! My dad now takes care of him. He feeds Maximus and takes him to the vet regularly. My dad even had this big dog house built for him in the backyard.

Bayani San Diego Jr.
PHOTOS BY AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
8th floor Shangrila Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633-3237 / 633-3255 loc. 111

1 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER - 5
2 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER - 5
3 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER - 5
4 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER - 5

PREMIERE
(DOLBY) HARRY POTTER - 5

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 HARRY POTTER - 5
2 HARRY POTTER - 5
3 HARRY POTTER - 5
4 DIE HARD 4.0

stermall
EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7268160
3 HARRY POTTER - 5
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) TRANSFORMERS
5 RESERVED

metropolis star cineplex
www.cinekilocity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504286, 5433994
1 TIYANAKS
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 HARRY POTTER - 5
4 DIE HARD 4.0

THEATRES
NE Pacific Mall Cabanatuan, Telephone No. (044) 600-3005
1 HARRY POTTER - 5
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD 4.0

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
1 HARRY POTTER - 5
2 DIE HARD 4.0
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER - 5
2 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER - 5
3 (DTS) HARRY POTTER - 5
4 (GOLD DTS) HARRY POTTER - 5
5 (GOLD DOLBY) HARRY POTTER - 5
6 (GOLD DOLBY) TRANSFORMERS
7 (GOLD DOLBY) DIE HARD 4.0
8 (DOLBY) TIYANAKS
9 (DOLBY) DIE HARD 4.0
10 (DOLBY) TRANSFORMERS

Blue Wave MAIL UNION
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER - 5
2 (DOLBY) DIE HARD 4.0
3 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER - 5
4 (DOLBY) TRANSFORMERS

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) DIE HARD 4.0
2 HARRY POTTER - 5
3 TIYANAKS
4 HARRY POTTER - 5
5 TRANSFORMERS

THE MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 HARRY POTTER - 5
2 HARRY POTTER - 5
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4.0

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 TIYANAKS
2 HARRY POTTER - 5
3 DIE HARD 4.0

Center Mall Cinema
Bagulo Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 DIE HARD 4.0
2 HARRY POTTER - 5

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) HARRY POTTER - 5
2 DIE HARD 4.0
3 (DTS EX) HARRY POTTER - 5
4 TRANSFORMERS

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TIYANAKS

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER - 5
2 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER - 5
3 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER - 5
4 DIE HARD 4.0/HARRY POTTER - 5

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 DIE HARD - 5
2 (DTS) HARRY POTTER - 5
3 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER - 5
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Binan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 (DOLBY) RESERVED
3 (DTS) RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 DIE HARD 4.0/HARRY POTTER-5
2 TIYANAKS
3 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER - 5

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 HARRY POTTER - 5
2 TIYANAKS
3 (DOLBY) DIE HARD 4.0
4 (DTS) TRANSFORMERS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 HARRY POTTER - 5
2 HARRY POTTER - 5
3 (DOLBY) DIE HARD 4.0

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 DIE HARD 4.0
2 HARRY POTTER - 5

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 WILDERNESS

Lianas Cinema
(Alaminos) tel 850.1276
1 (DOLBY) WILDERNESS
2 SUKDULAN
3 MAHAROT
4 (DTS) HARRY POTTER - 5

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) TIYANAKS
2 ANAKAN MO AKO
3 (DTS) DIE HARD 4.0
4 HARRY POTTER - 5
5 HARRY POTTER - 5

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 DIE HARD 4.0
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 WILDERNESS
4 HARRY POTTER - 5

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 HIRAM
2 PLEASE CALL

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SM CINEMA
SHARE A MOVIE WITH A LOVED ONE

movietime SHOWTIME
VISIT WWW.SMCINEMA.COM
* Powered by WWW.YEHEY.COM
Your life as a movie
BIG MOVIES • BIG STARS • BIG SHOWS • BIG EVENTS

Don't miss the most anticipated movie event of the year!
Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix
Experience the movie's explosive finale in IMAX 3D at SAN MIGUEL Coca-Cola IMAX THEATRE
Tickets now available.
P 350 (Monday to Thursday, before 5pm)
P 400 (Monday to Thursday, 5pm onwards, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, Holiday whole day)
Please call 556-IMAX (4629) or 556 0242 for inquiries and reservations.
NOW SHOWING

SCREENING TIME	JULY 13 FRIDAY	JULY 14 SATURDAY	JULY 15 SUNDAY	JULY 16 MONDAY	JULY 17 TUESDAY	JULY 18 WEDNESDAY	JULY 19 THURSDAY
11:00 AM	OPEN	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
2:00 PM	OPEN	FEW SEATS	FEW SEATS	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
5:00 PM	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	FEW SEATS	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
8:00 PM	FEW SEAT	FEW SEATS	FEW SEATS	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
11:00 PM	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN

Subject to change without prior notice. You may also call your nearest SM Cinema branch and The Podium Cinema for their respective advance ticket selling screening schedules.

METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104
SM MALL OF CINEMAS
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 HARRY POTTER V
5 DIE HARD 4
6 TIYANAKS

PREMIERE CINEMA
HARRY POTTER V

CENTERSTAGE
HARRY POTTER V

THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
HARRY POTTER V
CINEMA 2
HARRY POTTER V
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 HARRY POTTER V
5 DIE HARD 4
6 HARRY POTTER V
7 HARRY POTTER V
8 TRANSFORMERS
9 TIYANAKS
10 DIE HARD 4
11 HARRY POTTER V
12 TRANSFORMERS

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 PARAISO
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 HARRY POTTER V
5 HARRY POTTER V
6 DIE HARD 4
7 TRANSFORMERS
8 FANTASTIC FOUR
9 HARRY POTTER V
10 HARRY POTTER V
11 DIE HARD 4
12 TIYANAKS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 PARAISO
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 HARRY POTTER V
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 DIE HARD 4
7 HARRY POTTER V
8 TIYANAKS
9 HARRY POTTER V
10 HARRY POTTER V
11 TRANSFORMERS
12 DIE HARD 4

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 DIE HARD 4
5 HARRY POTTER V
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
7 DIE HARD 4
8 PARAISO
9 TRANSFORMERS
10 TIYANAKS

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 TIYANAKS
5 DIE HARD 4
6 TRANSFORMERS

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 HARRY POTTER V
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 TRANSFORMERS
7 DIE HARD 4
8 DIE HARD 4
9 TIYANAKS

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 DIE HARD 4
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 DIE HARD 4
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 HARRY POTTER V
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 HARRY POTTER V
7 TIYANAKS
8 HARRY POTTER V
9 TRANSFORMERS
10 HARRY POTTER V
11 FANTASTIC FOUR
12 DIE HARD 4

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 HARRY POTTER V

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 DIE HARD 4
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 DIE HARD 4
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 TRANSFORMERS

Event Calendar

movietime

Event Calendar

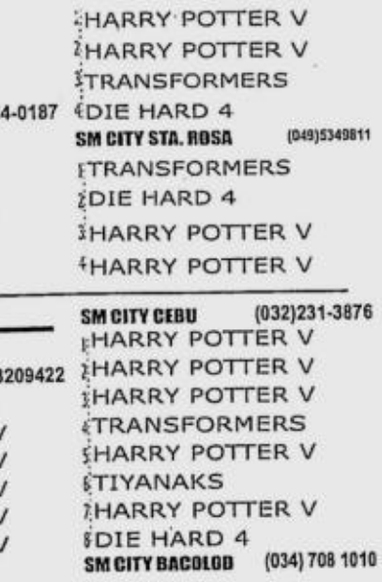
Kids of all ages are invited to
Remy's Kitchen
A fun-filled activity for budding chefs

July 14 (Saturday) at Southmall cinema lobby (facing Cinema 1)
July 15 (Sunday) at Megamall cinema lobby (facing Cinema 1)
July 21 (Saturday) at The Block Event Center (ground floor)
July 22 (Sunday) at San Lazaro Event Center (ground floor)
July 28 (Saturday) at Mall of Asia Activity Area (near IMAX Theater)

Admission is free!
Participants are accepted on a first come, first served basis.
Sessions are at 11:00 a.m., 3:00 p.m., and 5:00 p.m.

Learn to be like Remy and Linguini in preparing mouth-watering desserts. Kids who prepared the best dessert will win special prizes. Plus, you can also buy your "Ratatouille" movie tickets in advance.
See you there!

Special Thanks to SM CINEMA SM SUPERMALLS



Distributed by Buena Vista International
© Disney/Pixar

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 DIE HARD 4
6 HARRY POTTER V
7 TIYANAKS
8 PARAISO

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 DIE HARD 4
5 TIYANAKS
6 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 HARRY POTTER V

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 DIE HARD 4
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 TIYANAKS

SM CIY LIPA (043) 784-0187
1 DIE HARD 4
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 DIE HARD 4
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 HARRY POTTER V

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 DIE HARD 4
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 HARRY POTTER V

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 DIE HARD 4
5 HARRY POTTER V
6 HARRY POTTER V

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 HARRY POTTER V

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 HARRY POTTER V
5 HARRY POTTER V
6 HARRY POTTER V
7 TIYANAKS
8 DIE HARD 4

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 HARRY POTTER V
6 TIYANAKS
7 HARRY POTTER V
8 DIE HARD 4

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

Woody Allen starts filming in Barcelona

SNEAK PEEK

BARCELONA, SPAIN—SECURITY guards held back curious sunbathers as veteran US director Woody Allen began shooting his latest star-studded film on a Barcelona beach early this week.

US actresses Scarlett Johansson and Rebecca Hall and Spaniards Javier Bardem and Penelope Cruz are some of the stars acting in the as yet untitled film.

The shoot is due to last seven weeks and take place in Barcelona, the northern Spanish region of Asturias, and New York City, Allen's home.

The 71-year-old Academy Award-winning director, an amateur clarinet player widely admired in Spain, also gave a couple of concerts with two members of his jazz band in a Barcelona hotel.

The new film will be a "love letter to Barcelona," Allen told a news conference here last week. He said he hoped to create a portrait of the northeastern Spanish city on par with his 1979 masterpiece "Manhattan." *AFP*

ACTRESS Scarlett Johansson's off-cam movements are limited on the crowd

DIRECTOR and star confer before a take. Allen says this movie will be a "love letter" to Barcelona, at par with his 1979 masterpiece, "Manhattan." Javier Bardem and Penelope Cruz are also starring in major roles. AFP

PRET Allen' actres "Scoo

MICK JAGGER AFP

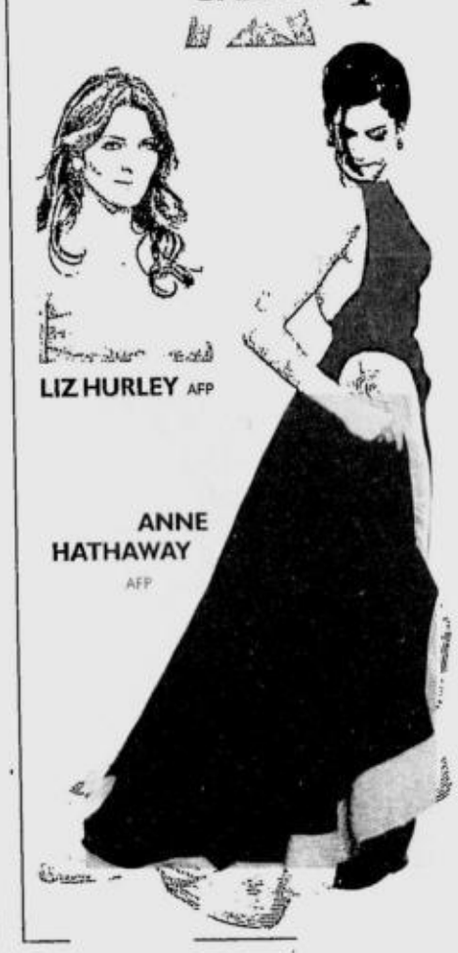
EVA MENDES

SARAH J PARKER

RED CARPET

Stars and fashion plates gather

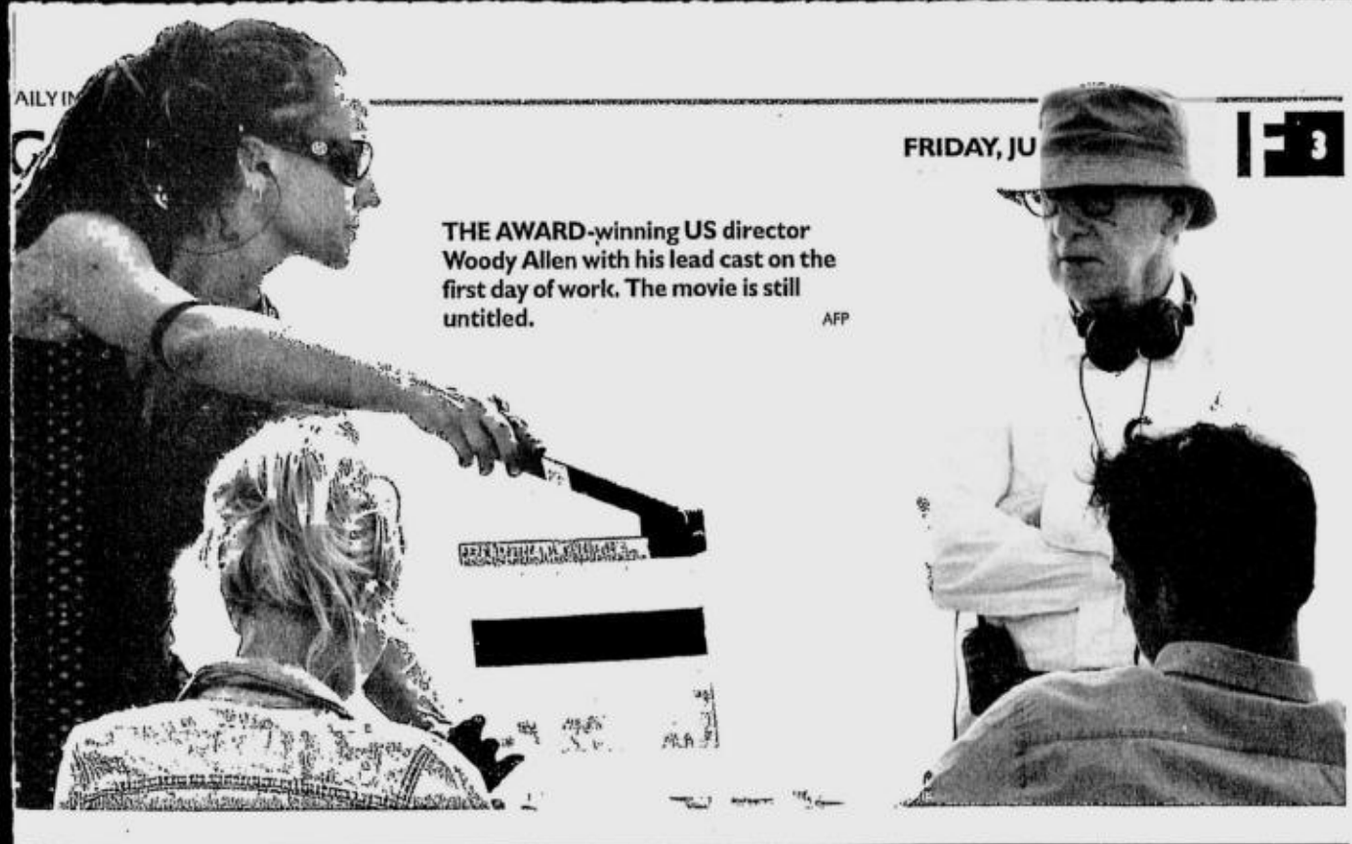
At the Valentino ga in Rome on July 7



LIZ HURLEY AFP

ANNE HATHAWAY AFP

SIENNA MILLER REUTERS



THE AWARD-winning US director Woody Allen with his lead cast on the first day of work. The movie is still untitled. AFP

ed beach front. AFP

TY shutterbug is Woody
; current favorite lead
s. They worked previously on
p." AFP

ESSICA
AFP

a dinner

UMA THURMAN AFP

A Seat fit for the Li'l King

Introducing
the Ayala Malls Cinemas
BOOSTER BUDDY.

Its two-sided design provides height options for children of different ages.

It has a cup and candy holder, it's odorless, and has no sharp corners.

Its lightweight design allows children to carry their own seat.

Ayala Malls CINEMAS

Ayala CINEMAS

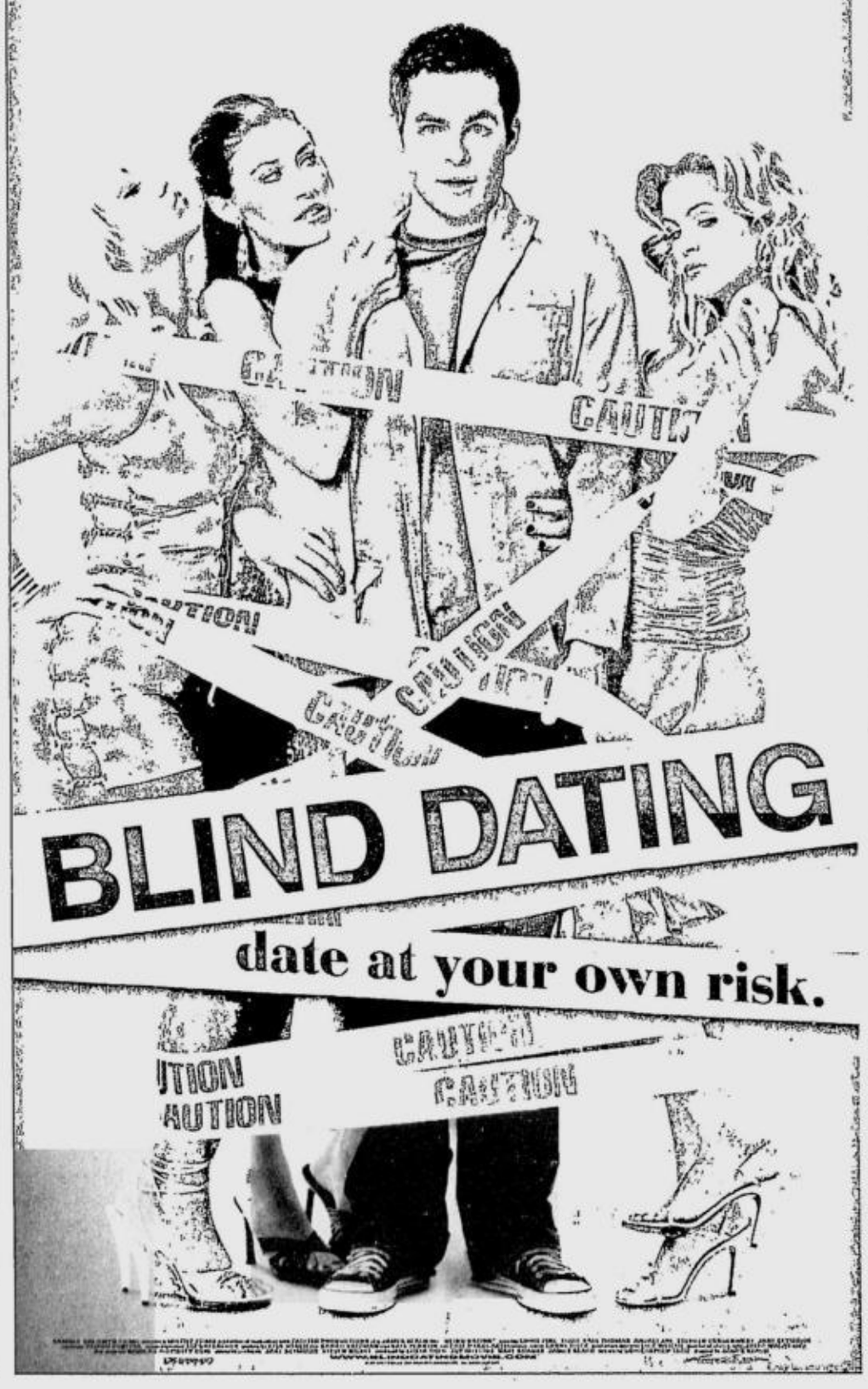
ALL SYSTEMS GO!
Buy your tickets to the best seats in town
TRINOMA
NOW OPEN!

located at the corner of Edsa and North Avenue in Quezon City
For screening schedule, pls. call 729-7777.
Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservation.

TriNoma

OPENS JULY 25

EDDIE KAYE THOMAS CHRIS PINE ANJALI JAY



BLIND DATING
date at your own risk.

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA

Ticket Price THX: P160 130 Indie Sine: 100 632-8116

1 HARRY POTTER 5 • THX
1:00MF 3:40 6:20 9:00LMF

2 HARRY POTTER 5
10:50MF 1:30 4:10 6:50 9:30LMF

3 HARRY POTTER 5
12:00MF 2:40 5:20 8:00LMF

4 HARRY POTTER 5
12:30MF 3:10 5:50 8:30LMF

5 TRANSFORMERS
11:00MF 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00LMF

6 HARRY POTTER 5
11:30MF 2:10 4:50 7:30BS 10:10LMF

7 TIYANAKS
1:00MF 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40LMF

8 indieSine: TULI
12:00MF 2:25 4:50 7:15 9:40LMF

9 TRANSFORMERS
1:15MF 4:00 6:45 9:30LMF

10 DIE HARD 4
11:20MF 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00LMF

Tickets for Galleria's Reserved Seats Cinemas 1, 3 & 4 are already available and may be purchased in advance.

SHOWING NOW!!!! !

Auraeus Solito's

T U L I

THIS BANNED FILM WILL FINALLY BE SHOWN IN PUBLIC THEATERS!

Starring:
DESIREE DEL VALLE & CARLO AQUINO!.

A brutal and satirical rite of passage film that will challenge your sensibilities!

indieSine

ONLY AT **INDIESINE**, Robinsons Galleria!

ERMITA

Ticket Price: P110 / P120

1 HARRY POTTER 5
10:20MF 1:15 4:10 7:05 10:00

2 TIYANAKS
12:00MF 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 HARRY POTTER 5
11:00MF 2:00 5:00 8:00LMF

4 DIE HARD 4
11:00MF 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00LMF

5 HARRY POTTER 5
11:40MF 2:40 5:40 8:40LMF

6 TRANSFORMERS
11:00MF 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

7 HARRY POTTER 5
12:00MF 3:20 6:20 9:20

METRO EAST

Ticket Price: P100 / P110 682-8193 / 682-8199

1 TRANSFORMERS
12:00MF 3:05 6:10 9:10LMF

2 HARRY POTTER 5
1:20MF 4:00 6:40LMF

3 HARRY POTTER 5
10:40MF 1:20 4:00 6:40 9:20LMF

4 DIE HARD 4
12:10MF 3:10 6:10 9:10LMF

5 HARRY POTTER 5
11:30MF 2:10 4:50 7:30LMF

6 HARRY POTTER 5
3:10MF 5:50LMF

7 HARRY POTTER 5
12:30MF 3:10 5:50 8:30LMF

8 TIYANAKS
1:00MF 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00LMF

NOVALICHES

Ticket Price: P90 / P100 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 TIYANAKS
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 HARRY POTTER 5
6 DIE HARD 4

PIONEER

Ticket Price: P100 / P110 687-5378

1 HARRY POTTER 5
11:00MF 2:00 4:50 8:00
2 HARRY POTTER 5
11:30MF 2:30 5:20 8:30
3 TRANSFORMERS
12:20 3:00
4 DIE HARD 4
12:40 3:20 6:00 8:40

STA. ROSA

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (049) 837-0907

1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 DIE HARD 4
5 TRANSFORMERS

LIPA

Ticket Price: P90 (043) 757-3684 (043) 312-5870

1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 TIYANAKS
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 DIE HARD 4

DASMARINAS

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (046) 416-4332

1 TIYANAKS
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 HARRY POTTER 5
5 HARRY POTTER 5

IMUS

Ticket Price: 100 (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 TIYANAKS
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 DIE HARD 4
6 HARRY POTTER 5

ANGELES

Ticket Price: P90 / P95 (045) 892-2348

1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 HARRY POTTER 5

TARLAC

1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 DIE HARD 4
TRANSFORMERS

STARMILLS

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (045) 875-1927

1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 DIE HARD 4
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TIYANAKS
5 HARRY POTTER 5
6 HARRY POTTER 5

BACOLOD

Ticket Price: P70 (034) 441-0459

1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 RESERVE
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 DIE HARD 4

ILOILO

Ticket Price: P70.50 / P80.50 (033) 336-8070

1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 TIYANAKS
3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 HARRY POTTER 5
5 DIE HARD 4
6 TRANSFORMERS

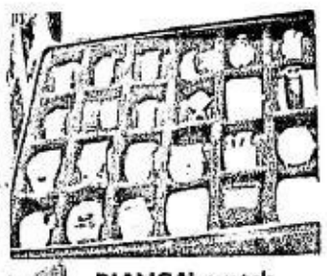
Get a
HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX
folder for every (2) two regular movie tickets purchased.

A customer may get a maximum of (2) folders for ticket purchases of more than two (2+).

*Offer also valid for advance ticket sales.

Frequent traveler not big on shopping

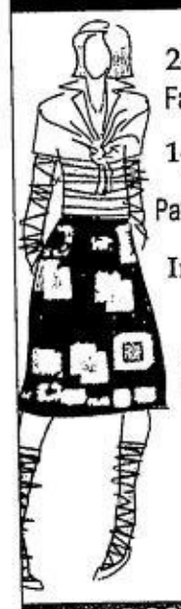
SHE likes the look of chunky watches on her thin arms. In fact, she used to wear her brother's timepieces.



BIANCA's watch collection

World Class Education for the Best in Fashion
Right Here. Right Now.

COURSES OFFERED FOR 2007



2-year International Diploma
Fashion Design and Fashion Marketing

1-year International Certificate
Fashion Stylist • Fashion Buyer
Patternmaker • Print Media and Advertising

International Mini Certificate
Basic Fashion Design
Basic Garment Production

ENROLLMENT GOING ON

JULY TERM
July 16 - September 28

Weekend Short Courses
June 30 August 11

Weekend Short Courses
LADIES' PATTERNMAKING
MEN'S WEAR PATTERNMAKING
CHILDREN'S PATTERNMAKING
SEWING
DRAPING
FASHION ILLUSTRATION
FASHION STYLING
JEWELRY and FASHION ACCESSORIES
ARTISTIC MAKE UP
FASHION PHOTOGRAPHY
DIGITAL PORTFOLIO
PAD SYSTEM

LASALLE COLLEGE INTERNATIONAL MANILA
Bloomingdale Blg., 205 Salcedo St.,
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. No.: 8401543; 8401476; 8401498 Telefax: 8401497
www.lasallecollege.com.ph

Need help with tuition fee?
Apply for a Personal Loan today from HSBC
Inquire at telephone no. 830-5414

LASALLE COLLEGE INTERNATIONAL

10% DISCOUNT FOR THE FIRST TEN (10) NEW ENROLLEES
Please present this coupon upon enrollment

MTRCB PG General Audience
ALL AGES ADMITTED
NOW SHOWING!

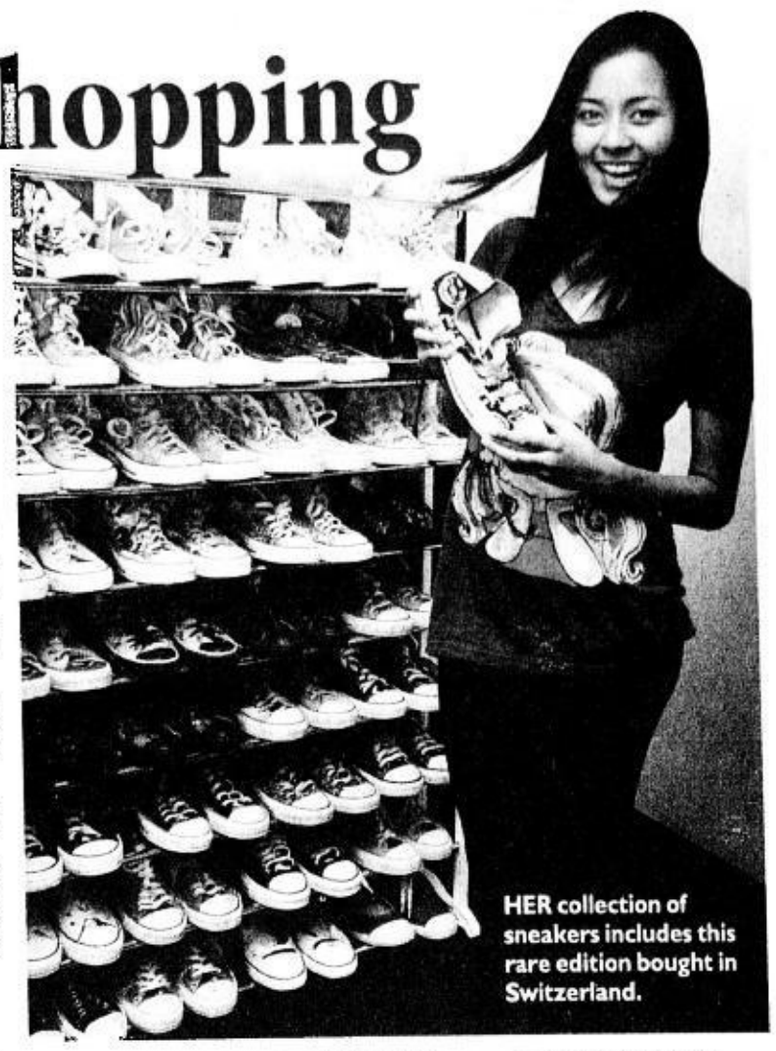
By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Rodel Rotoni

REALLY? THAT'S WHAT TV HOST Bianca Gonzalez told Living Stars.

Bianca said she would rather save money so she could travel around the world. "I've been to the States with my family," she said during our visit to her Parañaque City home last week. "I've gone to Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore. In 2005, I went to Europe. My three dream cities are Paris, Tokyo and Cairo. I got to see Paris last year. I'm still working on my visa for Tokyo. And Egypt—it's far so it's going to be expensive. I've also been to Switzerland."

As we go to press, Bianca is en route to Singapore again with her "gay best friend." Next month, she will fly to Australia, again with two friends.

When she does spend her hard-earned money, it is to buy hard-to-find Chuck Taylor rubber shoes, like the pair she bought in Switzerland. "It's so expensive," she said. "But it's the kind that you still think about when you wake up the next morning. So I returned to the shop and bought it."



HER collection of sneakers includes this rare edition bought in Switzerland.

OUT OF THE CLOSET

SHOWING off production passes, some of them from her college days. She got a Cinemanila pass when her short film was picked for screening.

FOOTWEAR

I have a collection of Chucks (Converse Chuck Taylors). I started collecting them when I was just modeling. My first 15 pairs were featured in a magazine, Converse saw the story and started sponsoring me. Now I own 65 pairs!

These are my first Chucks ever (shows a pink pair). I bought them in 2001. My other favorite pair is the John Lennon peace edition, which has a sketch of John by Yoko Ono, plus the lyrics, "Imagine all the people living life in peace." I felt so bad because I only bought one pair.

I bought the hi-cut pair in Switzerland. It's Chucks winter edition. *May fur pa sa loob*, very expensive. To think I'm a cheapskate. The other pink pair is special because the checkered laces were *pasalubong* from the US from my best friend.

I used to wonder why toy collectors wouldn't play with their toys. Now I understand.

From among my non-Chucks, this is my favorite (shows a pair of white wedgies). Almost all the shoes I own are from Janylyn. I use high heels only for work. I bought this in Hong Kong. I really like the style. It's perfect with everything I have.

GOWNS

I have gowns because of "Pinoy Big Brother." I wore this (a long purple ball gown) during the Big Night last June 30. This is from Joey Samson. We met just for this because I showed him a picture from a magazine that I liked. He made me choose from the fabrics he had. This is made from five different kinds.

This one, made by John Paras, is in black and white; it's backless. I wore it when I had to sub for Toni (Gonzaga) on a nomination night.

In picking the perfect gown, it's important that you feel comfortable in it. You know what they say, that what you're wearing affects your mood? In a gown you have to be really ladylike, and it helps a lot when you're comfortable. Aside from that, the cut has to be good. If your asset is a small waist, for instance, you should highlight it, flaunt it.

COAT

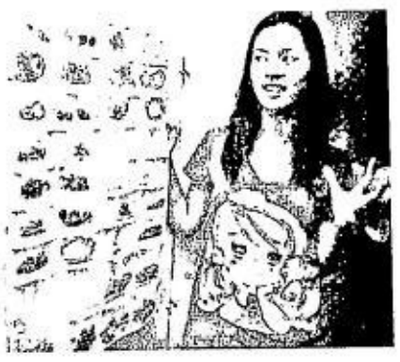
My trench coat is one of my favorites because I'm super obsessed with traveling. This coat is super expensive. I bought it when I visited my *kuya* in the US in January. I really saved up for this. It's kind of heavy. Generally, I enjoy hot weather better, but when I'm in a cold place feel *na* feel *ko ang* layering.

LONG purple ball gown by Joey Samson, above L, is made of five different fabrics. She wore it on PBB's Big Night. Above, samples of her bright-colored bikinis.

SUMMER WEAR

My favorite summer outfits are these bikinis. They say bright colors look better on *morenas*. My newest pair, which I bought in Rustan's, is in fuchsia. They have really good bikinis in that store.

If you plan to buy summer outfits, *'wag kayong mahiya*. Honestly, everyone looks sexy in a bikini on the beach, even those who think they're fat. Of course, when you fit it in the dressing room *parang hindi bagay*, but once you cut-and-paste yourself in a beach setting, *maganda*.



BIG accessories don't impress her much. She wears them only when necessary.

BAGS

My favorite is a hand-me-down from my mom. Hand-me-downs are the best! I use this (black purse with gold chains) when I go out with friends for dinner. Black goes with anything. It also matches my jet-black hair.

My Roxy backpack is perfect for the beach. My dream is to have a designer bag but when I think of how much it will cost, I don't buy anymore. I tell myself I'll just wait till I'm older. This is big. I can dump everything in it and disappear for five days. I have tips for Boracay travelers: Never pack toiletries. *Pampabigat 'yun*. Once you're there, you can just buy shampoo and toothpaste in sachets. I'm a major low-maintenance girl.

LAPTOP COMPUTER

This is my can't-live-without (shows her Mac Book). It looks like your Trapper Keeper in the '90s. I got this in 2004 when I was still in "Magandang Umaga Pilipinas." When Ryan (Agoncillo) started putting stickers on his, I said, "*parang* cool." So *ginaya ko*. But Ryan would just put stickers anywhere on his laptop so much so that when he filled the whole thing, he said "*Parang ang pangit*." I, on the other hand, planned everything. Each sticker is relevant. Ryan has sold his; he bought a new one.

GOWN by John Paras, which she wore on PBB nomination night.

ACCESSORIES

My watches are provided by Elle Time Studio. I like men's watches. For some reason, I like the look of bulky watches on a thin arm. Before I had sponsors, I used all of my brother's watches and he would always get mad at me. I have only girly watches now because sometimes they look better with what I have to wear for TV.

I'm really not big on accessories. Remember when everyone wore super big earrings? I didn't unless I had to. I'd rather focus on my clothes, more than on my accessories—unlike my sister, who wears plain clothes so she can use really big accessories. Whenever I have to accessorize, I usually just wear pearls or studs and a nice watch.

PRODUCTION PASSES

When I joined ABS-CBN, I started with production. I took up Com Arts in college and I really wanted to write and direct for films. On the year I was supposed to write for a show on Studio 23, I met Jett Valle of Backroom. That's when I joined the company. I have always liked collecting these passes—since I was in college. I got this Cinemanila pass because the short film ("Stoplight") I made for class was picked for exhibition. I was very proud.

THE Mac Book, her "can't live without" possession, which she has covered with choice stickers.

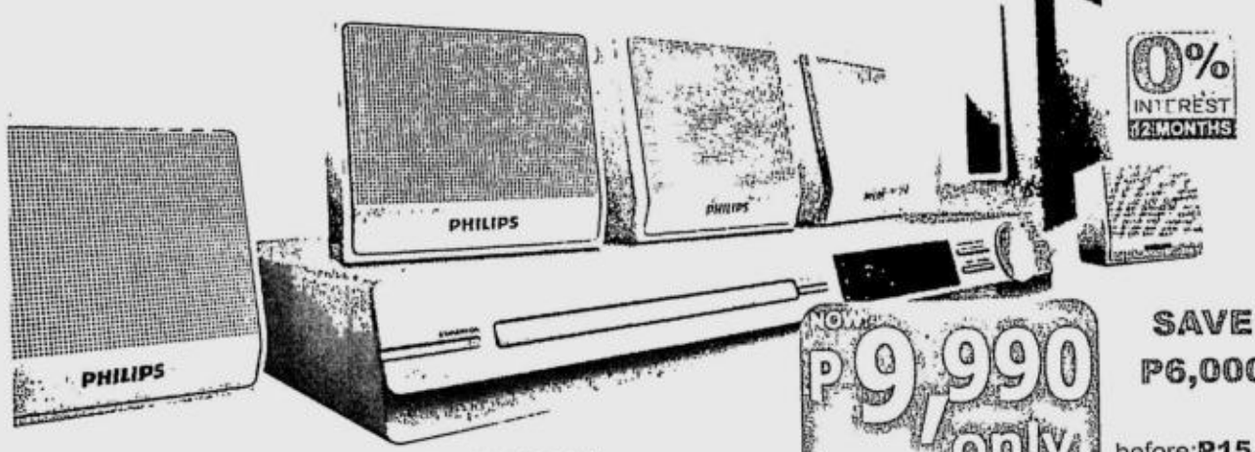
ABENSON

ABENSON

MEGA Sulit Deals

NOW P6,395 only

SANYO
ST21CE1
21" CONVENTIONAL TV



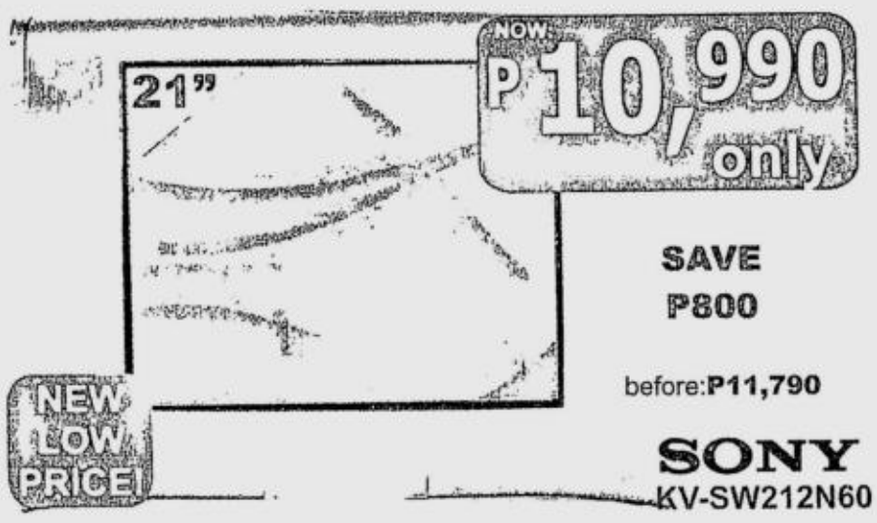
0% INTEREST 12 MONTHS

NOW P9,990 only

SAVE P6,000

before: P15,990

PHILIPS
HTS-3000 Home Theater



NOW P10,990 only

NEW LOW PRICE!

SAVE P800

before: P11,790

SONY
KV-SW212N60

29" at a price of 25"

Now P 17,990

Before P 22,990

save P5,000

FREE Upgrade to a 29"

JVC

25" at a price of 21"

Now P 14,990

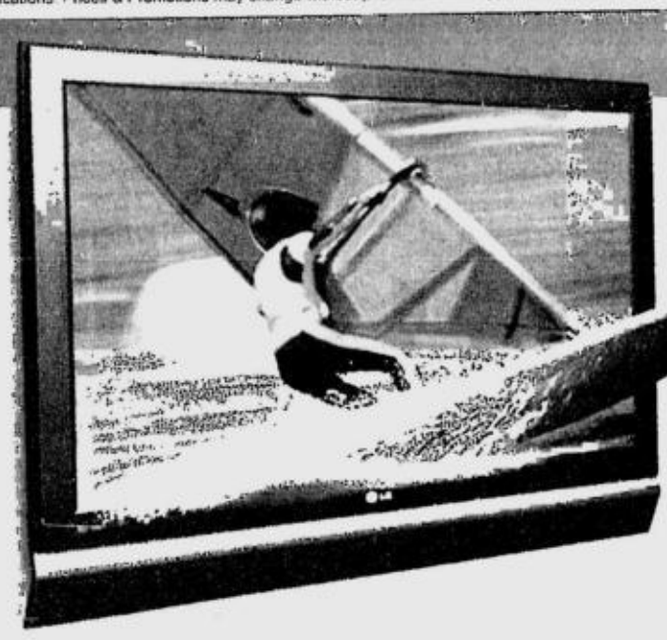
Before P 17,990

save P3,000

FREE Upgrade to a 25"

JVC

Visuals, Specifications, Prices & Promotions may change without prior notice. 0% applicable provided monthly bill is paid in full. Subject to bank terms and conditions



Time Machine TV

LIVE

Watch. Record. Pause. Play.

Life's good when you change the way you watch TV with LG's Plasma or LCD TV with built-in DVR (Digital Video Recorder). You can pause live broadcast with one touch of a button and play it back anytime you choose. LG's DVR will replay what you are watching automatically. Watch TV on your own schedule that matches your interests - such as your favorite TV shows, movies or sports.

Don't miss out quality time in your life with - LG Time Machine TV.

Life's Good

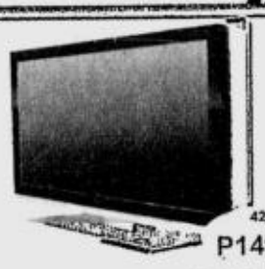
LG

EISA AWARD Best Product 2006-2007 Plasma TV LG 42FC1RR

reddot design award

LCD TV

42LC2RR P179,999

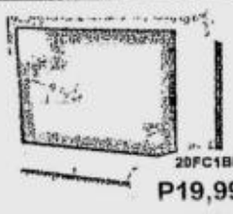

42LC3R P149,999

37LC3R P119,999

32LC3R P79,999

32LC2R P59,999

FLAT TV


20FC1BL P19,999

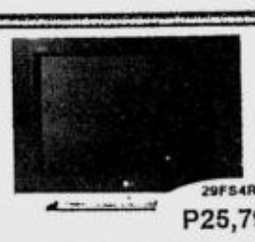
21FB3RB P7,499

21FC1RB P8,798

21FX4AL P10,348

SUPER SLIM

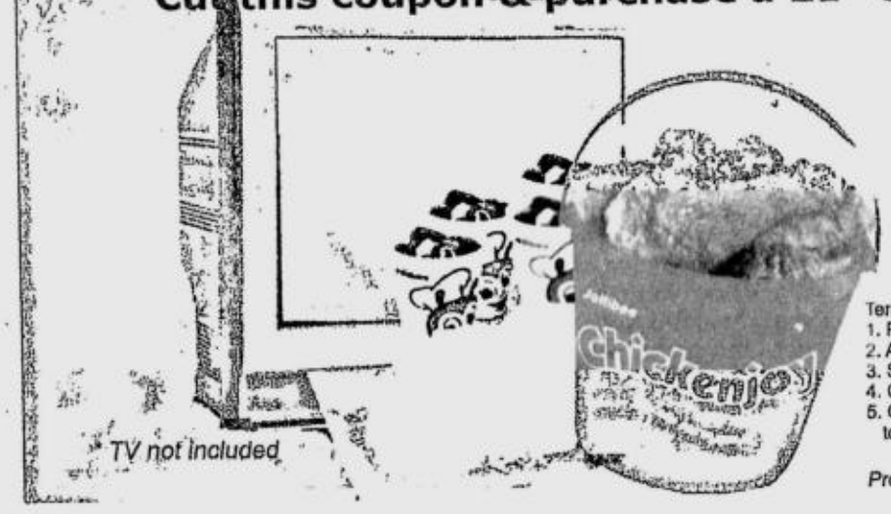
21FS4RK P12,398


29FS4RK P25,798

LG Electronics Philippines
15 F. Legaspi St., Maybunga, Pasig City | Tels. 641-4181 to 85 | Fax 640-0460, 641-9486 | 1-800-10-6402525 (Free provincial calls) | CIC Hotline (02) 640-2525 , 0917-8242525, 0920-9002525
www.lge.com

Cut this coupon & purchase a 21" or above TV to get a free Jollibee treat!

ABENSON



TV not included

FREE! Chickenjoy BUCKET TREAT

Terms and Conditions apply.
1. Present this coupon to avail of promo
2. Applicable on Cash & Card Purchases only
3. Strictly (1) coupon per transaction
4. Cannot be used in conjunction with other promotions
5. Coupon is non-convertible to cash and non-changeable to other products

Promo Period: June 15 to July 31, 2007

Present this coupon at any Abenson store when you buy any 21" and Above CRT TV and get a Jollibee treat!

Jollibee.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2121, Series of 2007

ABENSON

MEGA LCD Deals, MEGA Entertainment!

0% Installment up to **24 months!* Freebies!* Discounts!***

32"

PHILIPS 32TA2800

CASH BUYER LESS P10,000

P59,980 /only

32"

PHILIPS 32PF7321
32" Pixel Plus; HD Ready
Virtual Dolby Surround

0% 12 MONTHS

P69,980
FREE HOME THEATRE

32"

0% 12 MONTHS

SAMSUNG 32R81B
32" Bordeaux Plus; 8000:1
Dynamic Contrast Ratio

SAVE P5,000
now: **P64,900**
before: **P69,900**

32"

now: **P89,990 /only**

SONY KLV32V300
1 Mega Pixel;
8000:1Dynamic Contrast Ratio
1600;1on Screen Contrast
Free Gear-up your Bravia vouchers!

0% INTEREST 12 MONTHS

32"

LG 32LC2R
32 XD Engine
1600:1 Contrast Ratio
Cash buyers: FREE DVD Player
Cash buyers: FREE HOME THEATRE

P59,999

32"

0% 12 MONTHS

SHARP 32PX5M
XGALCD Panel
High Fidelity Sound
FREE Wall Bracket or get LCD rack for P1999!

P69,998

37"

0% 12 MONTHS

SHARP 37PX5M
6000:1 Dynamic Contrast Ratio
2HDMI Inputs
FREE Wall Bracket or get LCD rack for P1999!

P99,998

40"

0% 24 MONTHS

SONY KLV40V200A
1 Mega Pixel; 5000:1
Dynamic Contrast Ratio

P154,990

40"

0% 12 MONTHS

SAVE P20,000
now: **P129,900**
before: **P149,900**

LG LA40R81B
Bordeaux Plus, 8000;1
Dynamic Contrast Ratio
Less P5,000!

40"

0% 12 MONTHS

SONY KLV40S200
Mega Pixel WXGA
Free Gear-up your Bravia voucher!

P149,990

46"

0% 12 MONTHS

SAVE P30,000
now: **P149,900**
before: **P179,900**

SAMSUNG 46S81B
7000:1 Dynamic Contrast Ratio
Less P5,000!

46"

0% 12 MONTHS

SONY 46X200
2 Mega Pixel Full HD
Vertical Dolby Surround Prologic II

P279,990

Home Theater

0% 12 MONTHS

LG HT-202SF

P9,999

0% 12 MONTHS

Pioneer HTZ-151
750m power

P15,498

0% 12 MONTHS

Pioneer HTD-88
5.1 surround speaker system

P18,548

0% 12 MONTHS

SONY DAV-DZ555K

P26,990

Visuals, Specifications, Prices & Promotions may change without prior notice. 0% applicable provided monthly bill is paid in full. Subject to bank terms and conditions

10 Powerful Years IN THE PHILIPPINES

Canon
Delighting You Always

PERFECT PICTURE PACKAGE

PowerShot A630
- 8.0 Megapixels
- 4x Optical Zoom
- 2.5" vari-angle LCD Screen

Php 21,950.00

PowerShot A640
- 10.0 Megapixels
- 4x Optical Zoom
- 2.5" vari-angle LCD Screen

Php 24,950.00

PowerShot A710IS
- 7.1 Megapixels
- 6x Optical Zoom
- 2.5" LCD Screen

Php 23,500.00

Take your shot now and save Php 8,250.
Hurry, before it's too late!

Promo extended until July 15, 2007.

FREE SELPHY CP720
with every Canon PowerShot*
Plus Free 512 MB SD Card & Camera Case

Insist on an original warranty issued by Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc.

Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc. 2F Marvin Plaza Building, 2153 Don Chino Roces Ave. Makati City, Philippines
Tel: 884 9000 • Fax 810 9797 • Email: info@canon.com.ph • www.canon.com.ph

*Valid only for the Canon PowerShot A630, A640 and A710IS. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1439, Series of 2007.

Never miss a moment with Canon ZR camcorder

Canon, the world's leader in digital imaging, has introduced three new models in its ZR Series camcorders: the ZR850, ZR830 and ZR800 MiniDV Camcorders.

The new models are powered by Canon's DIGIC DV Image processor. The DIGIC DV technology processes video information separately from photo information in order to always reproduce accurate, clear colors for both mediums. It also dynamically widens the range of colors in video and photos.

The 2007 ZR series camcorders offer genuine Canon 35x optical zoom lens (1000x digital zoom), which is Canon'slongest optical zoom on a camcorder to date.

Sophisticated yet simple to use, Canon's Smooth Zoom feature actually reduces erratic, jerky zoom techniques that plague some users of long zooms, smoothing out the process by selecting from one of three pre-set zoom speeds. For even smoother video, Canon Image Stabilization helps provide a shake free image for the entire focal length.

The Canon ZR800 MiniDV Camcorder also offers a microphone terminal, allowing you the added flexibility of plugging an external microphone. The Canon ZR850 MiniDV Camcorder provides a built -in Video Light to help ensure that you do not miss a thing, even when the natural lighting is less than ideal. It also offers a 1.07 megapixel CCD Image Sensor to be sure that all still and moving images captured are of a higher quality.

Available from authorized Canon Dealers, the ZR850 retails at PHP 27,950, ZR830 at PHP 22,950 and ZR800 at PHP 19,950. It comes with a FREE DV bag, tripod and one miniDV tape.

And there's more. You can also get a 60% discount on an iPod Shuffle when you purchase any of the new ZR Camcorders. Now you can listen to your favorite music as you shoot those favorite moments. How can it get better than that?

ZR850 ZR830 ZR800

ABENSON

MEGA Sulit Deals

SAMYO 21SE1 CONVENTIONAL 21" CONVENTIONAL — P6,995 only

FREE YELLOW CAB PIZZA!

Use Citibank Paylite and get a Yellow Cab pizza for free with a minimum purchase of P15,000!

YELLOW CAB Pizza Co. citibank

14" SHARP 14V-R70M 14" CONVENTIONAL P4,798

21" SHARP 21V-R70M 21" CONVENTIONAL P6,998

21" LG RP-21FB3RB 21" FLAT TV P7,499 FREE TV RACK!

21" SHARP 21V-FR75M 21" FLAT TV P7,998

0% 9 MONTHS 21" TCL 21189 21" FLAT TV P7,648 FREE TV RACK!

21" SAVE P1,000 now: P7,990 before: P8,990 JVC 21CA15 21" FLAT TV

MEGA Sulit Deals 21" 0% 12 MONTHS P8,995 only before: P9,495 JAMSUI CT-21K40 21" FLAT TV FREE TV RACK!

21" 0% 12 MONTHS LG RP-21FX4AL 21" FLAT TV FREE TV RACK! P10,348

29" 0% 12 MONTHS NEW LOW PRICE! P16,995 only before: P19,995 JAMSUI CT-29K40 29" FLAT TV FREE TV RACK!

29" SONY KV-SZ292N60 29" FLAT TV P22,990

21" 0% 6 MONTHS SHARP 21V-FR95S 21" FLAT TV FREE TV RACK! FREE STAND FAN P9,698

21" 0% 6 MONTHS JAMSUI CT-21Z30 21" FLAT TV FREE TV RACK! P9,995 GET DVD PLAYER FOR P2990!

21" 0% 12 MONTHS JAMSUI CT-21Z40 21" FLAT TV FREE TV RACK P10,995 GET DVD PLAYER FOR P2990!

25" 0% 12 MONTHS NEW LOW PRICE JVC AV-25MT16 25" FLAT TV FREE TV RACK PLUS GET DVD PLAYER FOR P1990! now: P15,990 before: P19,990

NEW LOW PRICE 29" FREE STAND FAN SHARP 29H-FDIA 29" FLAT TV FREE TV RACK! SAVE P18,000 now: P21,995 before: P39,995

Mega Entertainment Systems

DVD Player

PHILIPS DVP-3110K P2,490

P2,499 LG DV-246K

HDMI DVD Player

PHILIPS DVP-5986K 0% 6 MONTHS P5,990

P6,148 Pioneer DV490V-S

MEGA Pixel Perfect Buddies!

0% 18 MONTHS Canon PS A460 5 Mega Pixels 4x Optical Zoom FREE 1 GB SD Card and Pouch! P9,995

0% 18 MONTHS SONY DSC-S650 7.2 Mega Pixels FREE P5000 Printer GC! FREE Case P10,999

0% 18 MONTHS SONY DSC-W35 7.2 Megapixels 2.0 LCD FREE P5000 Printer GC/ P5000 HDPS GC! FREE Cleaning Kit P16,999

0% 18 MONTHS Canon Ixus 70 7.1 Mega Pixel 2.5" LCD FREE 1 GB SD Card and Pouch! P19,995

0% 18 MONTHS SONY DCR-HC48 1.1 Mega Pixel CCD, 25x Optical Zoom 2.5" LCD FREE 2000 Handycam Accessory GC, 5000 Photo Printer GC/5000 HDPS GC P34,999 FREE Body Bag 3 DVM 60R3 Cleaning Pouch DV Cleaning Tape

0% 24 MONTHS SONY DCR-DVD808 4.0 Mega Pixel, CZ Valo lens 5.1 Surround, 10x Optical Zoom FREE 2000 Handycam Accessory GC, 5000 Photo Printer GC/ 5000 HDPS GC P56,999 FREE Body Bag DVD Case DMR30S1 DMW30S2

Micro Components

0% 6 MONTHS PHILIPS MC-D129 P5,990

0% 6 MONTHS LG MDD-62 P9,999

0% 6 MONTHS Pioneer Gx3 P11,998

0% 6 MONTHS JVC MX-DK1 SAVE P1,000 now: P11,990 before: P12,990

0% 12 MONTHS PHILIPS MC-D288 P14,990

0% 12 MONTHS JVC DX-T99 SAVE P4,000 now: P27,990 before: P31,990

Visuals, Specifications, Prices & Promotions may change without prior notice. 0% applicable provided monthly bill is paid in full. Subject to bank terms and conditions

Mega Dependable Washing Machines

ABENSON

Sulit Single Tub Washers

0% INTEREST 3 MONTHS

Panasonic
NA-S526B
5.2 KG
Single Tub
P3,499

0% INTEREST 3 MONTHS

SHARP
ES-W605
6 KG
Single Tub
P4,198

0% INTEREST 3 MONTHS

SHARP
ES-SD70
7 KG
Spin Dryer
P3,998

0% INTEREST 6 MONTHS

Panasonic
CW-C63JPH
6 HP TIMER
P10,199

FREE STAND FAN

Carrier
WCARF008EC
7.5 HP TIMER
P14,498

Reliable Twin Tub Washers

TCL
WM-45TWM
4.5 KG
P4,895

FREE FLAT IRON

SHARP
ES-3310TWS
3.3 KG
P5,298

FREE FLAT IRON

SANYO
SW-700XT
5 KG
P6,195

FREE FLAT IRON

Panasonic
NA-W43R6W
4.3 KG
P6,199

0% INTEREST 6 MONTHS

Whirlpool
XWT-608
6 KG
P7,298

FREE FLAT IRON

LG
WP-1050RS
9.5 KG
P10,848

0% INTEREST 6 MONTHS

FREE STAND FAN

WCONT011EA
7.25 HP MANUAL
P15,048

Carrier
WCARF0101EC
P16,048

Convenient Fully Auto

FREE FLAT IRON

LG
WF-T6060NT
6 KG
P10,098

FREE FLAT IRON

SANYO
WA-60B5
6 KG
P10,695

FREE FLAT IRON

SHARP
ES-810PF
P17,498

FREE FLAT IRON

SANYO
ASW-81SRT
P9,995

0% INTEREST 24 MONTHS

EW560F
5 KG
P27,900

0% INTEREST 6 MONTHS

Whirlpool
4PGSC9455
P31,998

Visuals, Specifications, Prices & Promotions may change without prior notice. 0% applicable provided monthly bill is paid in full. Subject to bank terms and conditions

Wow! Wireless!

WOW! the best-selling

Sing and dance, ala concert star.
Kahit anong tono, kantahin mo, isayaw mo.

NEW CONCERTO

Features:
- Rechargeable & Wireless Main Microphone *New*
- Up to 8 Hours usage with 7 meter range *New*
- Microphone Charging Base Stand *New*
- Input Songs from Base Station or Remote Control *New*
- 2,064 Built-in Songs
- 10 Song Chip Slots *New*
- Input for 3rd Microphone *New*
- Challenge 100 & Omok Game *New*
- Scroll by Page *New*
- Record & Play Function
- Built-in USB Interface
- External Video Background Input
- One year Warranty

*Optional Duet mic

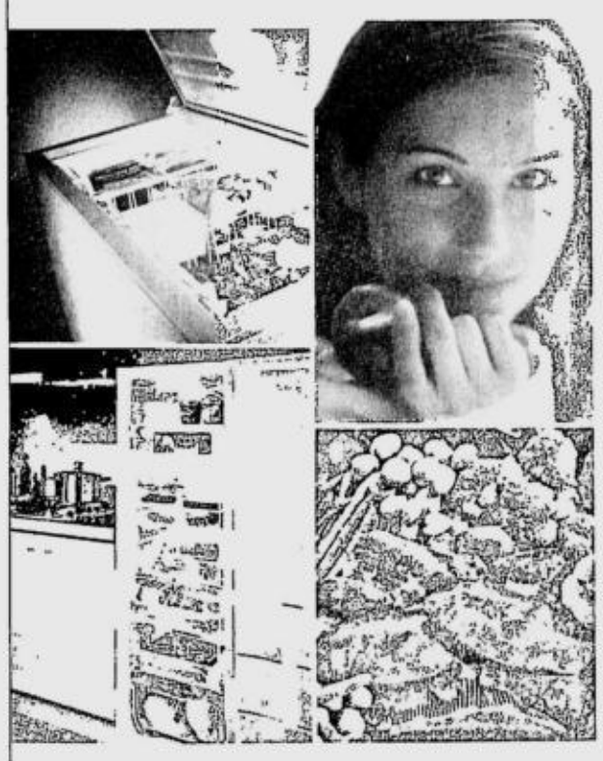
Also Available: Silver Fiesta Edition, Mabuhay Edition, Papuri Edition, Duet Mic

Optional Items: Tagalog Song Chips, Recording Chips

Available at: ABENSON

Exclusively Distributed by in-a-jiffy & G2K CORPORATION
www.magicmic.com

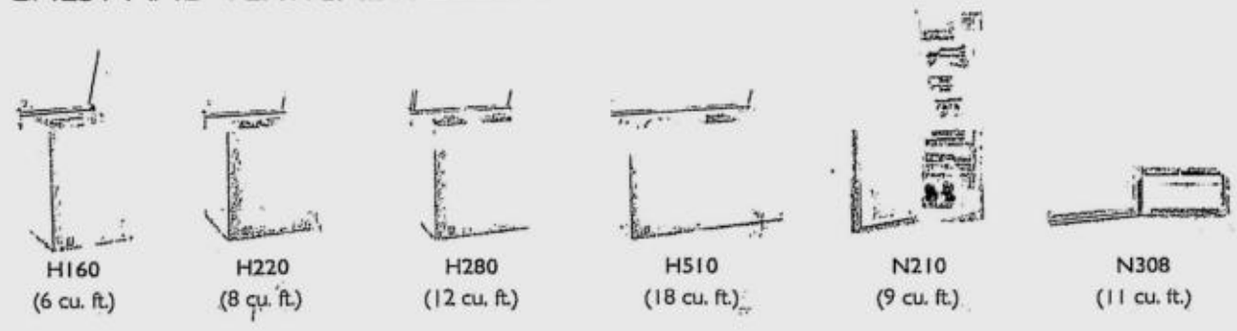
Food Stays Fresher, Longer.



Fisher and Paykel appliances are designed to make life easier. Our wide range of chest and vertical freezers are engineered to provide the optimum food storage conditions to freeze-in freshness. Outstanding features include a unique door vacuum design that seals in cold air instantly upon closing the door. This ensures a tight seal and instant energy savings. Thermostats are designed to hold low freezing temperatures of –18°C to ensure extended storage times by eliminating freeze-burn, maintain the optimal quality of frozen foods, and maximize the nutritional value of food for your family.

All Fisher and Paykel appliances are made in New Zealand using the latest 100% CFC and HCFC-free injected insulation for maximum energy efficiency and cleaner and greener environment. A standard five-year rust-free warranty on all exterior prepainted steel gives you peace of mind in locations with high humidity. All Fisher and Paykel refrigerators and freezers are tropicalized for Philippine use.

CHEST AND VERTICAL FREEZERS



H160 (6 cu. ft.) · H220 (8 cu. ft.) · H280 (12 cu. ft.) · H510 (18 cu. ft.) · N210 (9 cu. ft.) · N308 (11 cu. ft.)

N388 SS (14 cu. ft)

Visit us at the following showrooms:
- 1763 P.M. Guanzon St., Paco, Manila (in front of Toyota Otis) • Escolta cor. Nueva Sts., Manila
- 5th Floor Bridgeway SM Megamall • SM Appliance Center, SM Southmall
- 2nd Floor Anson's Emporium Pasay Road, Makati City

For more information call 564-1521 to 28. Visit us at www.fp.co.nz

Fisher&Paykel *innovative living*

SHOP

SM City FAIRVIEW

all you need

2ND FLOOR

LOWER GROUND LEVEL

UPPER GROUND LEVEL

UPPER GROUND LEVEL

*camp beverly hills

2ND FLOOR

UPPER GROUND LEVEL

SODA
PINKANDBLUE

18 YEARS OF STYLE EVOLUTION

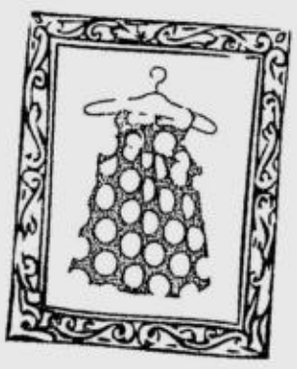
UPPER GROUND LEVEL

UPPER GROUND LEVEL

GIORDANO

UPPER GROUND LEVEL

UPPER GROUND LEVEL



Gingersnaps

UPPER GROUND LEVEL

Onésimus

UPPER GROUND LEVEL

what's your color?

www.bench.com

UPPER GROUND LEVEL

bench/2000

UPPER GROUND LEVEL

SM SUPERMALLS

Get into the SHO

Love Thy Feet.
GBX
UPPER GROUND LEVEL

CELINE

UPPER GROUND LEVEL

LOWER GROUND LEVEL

executive optical
exclusive distributor of

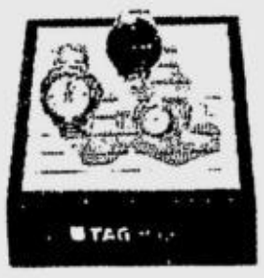
UPPER GROUND LEVEL

Ideal VISION CENTER
The Eyewear Specialist

UPPER GROUND LEVEL

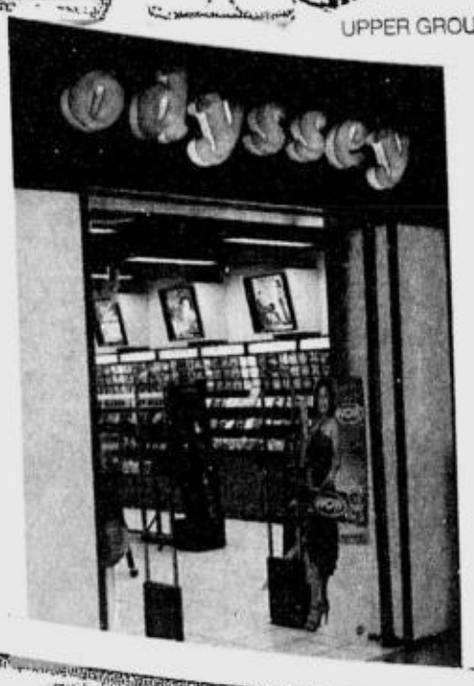
Mo INFINITY

CITY TIME



UPPER GROUND LEVEL

LOWER GROUND LEVEL



2ND FLOOR

LOWER GROUND LEVEL

QUANTUM
AMUSEMENT
PLAY YOUR KIND OF GAME
REDEEM YOUR KIND OF STUFF

LOWER GROUND LEVEL

UPPER GROUND LEVEL

UPPER GROUND LEVEL

DAVID'S SALON

For a salon nearest you, please call 897.HAIR(4247)

2ND FLOOR

UPPER GROUND LEVEL

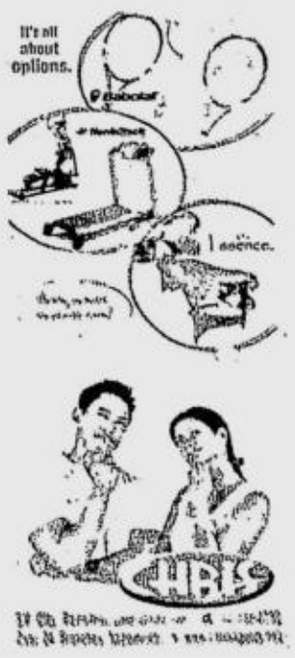
SM SUPERMALLS

SM Shop Valve

SM City FAIRVIEW

Cardams

UPPER GROUND LEVEL



HUSH PUPPIES

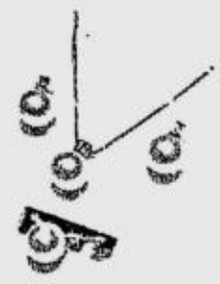
UPPER GROUND LEVEL

timefocus

3RD FLOOR

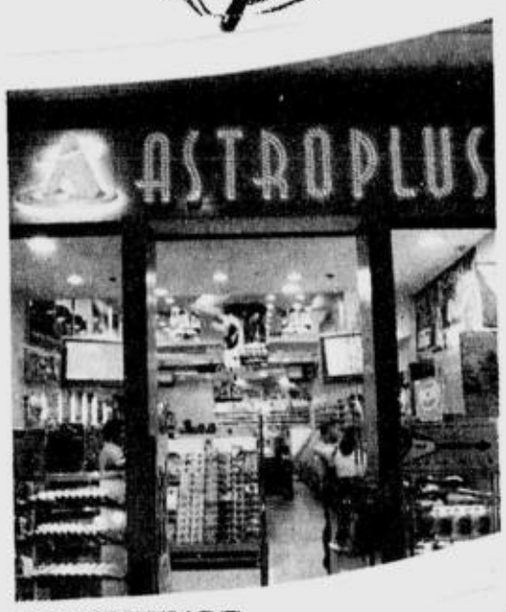
PINCTADA

UPPER GROUND LEVEL



the Optical shop

LOWER GROUND LEVEL



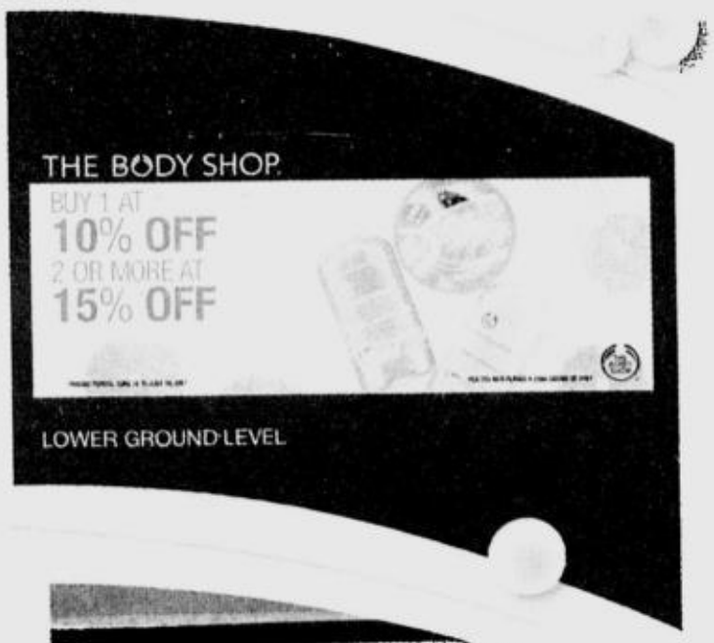
UPPER GROUND LEVEL

UPPER GROUND LEVEL

@CONCORDE

LOWER GROUND LEVEL

LOWER GROUND LEVEL



LOWER GROUND LEVEL

UPPER GROUND LEVEL

FAR EAST
MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
"Quality Health Care at Home"

LOWER GROUND LEVEL

LOWER GROUND LEVEL

SHOP SM City FAIRVIEW *all you crave for*

New!
Salad Sensations
Always Fresh. Always Tasty.
BIG MANDARIN CHICKEN SALAD
UPPER GROUND LEVEL

New
KFC Dippin' Fun Shots
UPPER GROUND LEVEL

MXT Teahouse
UPPER GROUND LEVEL

3RD FLOOR

Shakey's Dine'n Drive Raffle Promo
Win the all-new 2007 Honda CR-V!
DELIVERY HOTLINE 77-777
If it's late, it's FREE!
Major Credit Cards now accepted for food delivery.

3 cheeses in every pop!
NEW! Cheesy Pops pizza
Pinaka pizza
CALL 911-11-11
UPPER GROUND LEVEL

Roasters
Hot, fresh & healthy.
NEW GRILL 6 New Choices!
Chicken • Ribs • Burgers
Sausages • Pork Belly • Fish
Delivery 533-8888
2ND FLOOR

Round-The-Clock Treats
Use your coupons to avail of your favorite food items for less – any time of the day!
love ko 'to
UPPER GROUND LEVEL

Max's
ON YOUR FAVORITE CHICKEN
See posters and flyers for details
DIAL 7-9000 FOR DELIVERY
UPPER GROUND LEVEL

Mister Donut
Psst! May bagong Bavarian ang Mister Donut!
ALAS DONUT NA!
Mister Donut na!
LOWER GROUND LEVEL

Mala Mamon Soup
P25 each
Solo P27 each
Creamy MACARONI SOUP
UPPER GROUND LEVEL

Chez Mori
July
2ND FLOOR

HOT CHOCOLATE IN A POT
GHIRARDELLI
FRENCH
UPPER GROUND LEVEL

WHOPPER JR.
HAVE IT YOUR WAY
BURGER KING
UPPER GROUND LEVEL

Congo Grille
Experience jungle fun dining, parties, functions, and events like no other!
SM FAIRVIEW
GROUND FLOOR
SM City Annex
930 8871
935-1485
UPPER GROUND LEVEL

Farmer Boy
LOWER GROUND LEVEL

SM SUPERMALLS